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**'I shall endeavour to  
serve you with loyalty,  
respect and love'**



## Editorials

# Charles will have to show compassion and restraint

The accession of Charles III is a paradox. It does, as has been mentioned, represent something of a turning point. Things will be different.

The face of the monarchy after more than 70 years is literally changing – even though the ruddy features of the former Prince of Wales, as seen in his first televised address, are highly familiar. The coins, the bank notes and the stamps will look different. In due course, the Royal Mail vans and the badges worn by police and the armed forces will bear a new royal cypher: C III R. The senior barristers are now KCs. We will now ask the Almighty to save the King. There will be a new personality delivering the homily on Christmas Day. And so on...

There will be other changes to the institution of the monarchy itself. As far as can be judged from the King's remarks in the past, and briefings from his office, this 73-year-old veteran of public life is set on modernisation. There will be some slimming down of personnel. There will be fewer “working” royals, and they will be made better use of – a productivity boost is overdue.

The cost of the monarchy will be reviewed, though a full “nationalisation” of the institution required by democratic transparency and accountability is unlikely. The next coronation – the first in 70 years and only the third in the last century – will be a scaled-back affair.

The King seems to have stepped back from his past ambition to style himself “Defender of Faith”, but his approach will reflect his mother’s faith in faith, so to speak, and he will probably strive to be even more inclusive, reflecting the ever-more dynamic nature of his multicultural kingdom.

In his first speech, he indicated he was fully aware of the challenges he will face, promising “to uphold the constitutional principles at the heart of our nation”.

“Wherever you may live in the United Kingdom, or in the realms and territories across the world, and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life,” he promised.

He acknowledged that he will need to step back in some ways from his causes. “But I know this important work will go on in the trusted hands of others,” he said.

The King has many challenges ahead, and he does not need to be dragged into any of the “culture wars” that break out these days. This should be fresh in his mind after the reaction to his (entirely private) remarks about the government’s “appalling” plan to deport refugees to Rwanda. On balance, as Prince of Wales he did more good than harm. But now, even his thoughts about modern architecture will have to be determinedly anodyne. (In any case, the public can make a shrewd guess as to his views on newly constructed carbuncles.)

He should also be acutely conscious of the financial difficulties faced by so many families and businesses, and respond accordingly. The late Queen is a hard act to follow, but, then again, so was her late father, George VI, in his turn. She, in her twenties, had to learn fast and find her own way to do the job,

and grew into it. In his seventies, so too will her son. We wish him and his wife well in the years ahead.

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# The King promises ‘lifelong service’ in address to nation



King Charles III makes his address to the nation from Buckingham Palace yesterday (Getty)

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**ANDREW WOODCOCK**

POLITICAL EDITOR

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King Charles III has promised “lifelong service” to the United Kingdom as he paid a moving final farewell to “my darling Mama” in his first address to the nation as its new monarch.

In a broadcast from Buckingham Palace, the King spoke of his “feelings of profound sorrow” at the Queen’s death on Thursday at the age of 96 and vowed to continue her tradition of constitutional monarchy.

He announced that he was creating his eldest son and heir William and wife Kate Prince and Princess of Wales and wife Camilla Queen Consort.

And he made clear he wanted to draw a line under rifts within the royal family following younger son Harry and wife Meghan’s withdrawal from official duties, with an affectionate message offering “my love ... as they continue to build their lives overseas”.

The address came after a poignant journey from the place of Elizabeth II’s death in Balmoral to London, where he and Camilla were given a rapturous reception by a crowd of thousands outside the palace.

As his royal Bentley drew up there were cries of “God save the King” from the crowd of thousands, some of whom had waited hours through sometimes heavy rainfall for a first glimpse of the new monarch.

Charles was given a peck on the cheek by one woman and another clutched his hand with both of hers and kissed it.

In a sign of the great personal loss which accompanies his accession to the throne, the new King told well-wishers: “I have really dreaded this day.”

His address was beamed into St Paul’s Cathedral, where Prime Minister Liz Truss joined 2,000 members of the public in a service of thanksgiving for the Queen’s life.

The service witnessed the first official rendition of the national anthem of Charles’s reign, under its new title “God Save the King”.

Wearing a dark suit and black tie, King Charles paid tribute to the Queen’s “love, affection, guidance, understanding and example”.



A service of prayer and reflection was held last night at St Paul's Cathedral (PA Wire)

And he said: “Queen Elizabeth’s was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today.”

In touching words addressed directly to “my darling Mama, as you begin your last great journey to join my dear late Papa”, he concluded: “Thank you. Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years.

“May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.”

In promising to follow his mother’s example of royal service until death, Charles also promised to uphold the principle of constitutional monarchy in place since the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

“As the Queen herself did with such unswerving devotion, I too now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the constitutional principles at the heart of our nation,” he said.

“And wherever you may live in the United Kingdom, or in the realms and territories across the world, and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.”

Charles said he was counting on “the loving help of my darling wife, Camilla” – now Queen Consort – for support in his new role. And he confirmed that as well as inheriting his former title of Duke of Cornwall and his old Scottish titles, William will follow him in becoming Prince of Wales, an honour granted to heirs to the throne since 1301.

“With Catherine beside him, our new Prince and Princess of Wales will, I know, continue to inspire and lead our national conversations, helping to bring the marginal to the centre ground where vital help can be given,” said King Charles.



**The royal couple look at floral tributes outside Buckingham Palace (PA)**

After his return from Balmoral, Charles held his first audience with the prime minister, who had earlier chaired a special cabinet meeting in honour of the Queen and led MPs in tributes in the House of Commons.

Liz Truss – who visited the Queen just three days earlier in Balmoral to be invited to form a government – hailed her as one of the greatest leaders the world has ever known”.

“She reinvented the monarchy for the modern age,” said the PM.

“She was a champion of freedom and democracy around the world. She was willing to have fun – whether on a mission with 007 or having tea with Paddington Bear.”

Her predecessor Boris Johnson described how he had “choked up” with tears earlier this year when asked to talk about the

Queen in the past tense for an obituary programme being recorded for the BBC.

“I was so overcome with sadness that I had to ask them to go away,” said Mr Johnson, who described the late monarch as “Elizabeth the Great” – a soubriquet previously applied only to Alfred among British sovereigns.

A crowd of thousands stood in solemn silence in Hyde Park as 96 rounds – one for each year of the Queen’s life – were fired by the King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery in a gun salute lasting 16 minutes.

No members of the royal family were present at St Paul’s for what was billed as an opportunity for ordinary citizens to give thanks for the Queen’s life.



The King greets well-wishers as he walks by the gates of Buckingham Palace (PA)

They heard the bishop of London Dame Sarah Mullally hail the late monarch as “a remarkable constant in the lives of millions, a symbol of unity, strength, forbearance and resilience... this nation’s unerring heartbeat through times of progress, joy and celebration, as well as in much darker and more difficult seasons”.

Ms Truss, dressed in black, gave a Bible reading from Romans 14.7-12 reflecting the Queen’s faith and selfless service: “We do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves. If we live,



we live to the Lord and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."

It was just over three months since the cathedral was the setting for a service of thanksgiving during the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations.

Charles will this morning be formally proclaimed King at an Accession Council in St James's Palace attended by the prime minister and around 200 members of the Privy Council. The ceremony, including Charles making his declaration and oath, will be televised for the first time in history.

The King has declared a period of royal mourning lasting until seven days after his mother's funeral, on a date which has not yet been announced.

But union flags on royal residences and prominent public buildings will be raised to full mast for 26 hours over the weekend in recognition of his reign, before being returned to half-mast for the remainder of the mourning period.

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# ‘Let us draw strength from the light of her example’

King Charles III’s historic first address to the nation in full



Customers in the Prince Harry Pub, Windsor, watch the King’s first speech (PA)

King Charles III made his historic first speech after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, to an audience of millions around the world yesterday.

As well as being broadcast on television it was displayed to mourners at a special memorial service at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Here is the King's address in full:

"I speak to you today with feelings of profound sorrow. Throughout her life, Her Majesty the Queen – my beloved mother – was an inspiration and example to me and to all my family, and we owe her the most heartfelt debt any family can owe to their mother; for her love, affection, guidance, understanding and example.

"Queen Elizabeth's was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today.

"Alongside the personal grief that all my family are feeling, we also share with so many of you in the United Kingdom, in all the countries where the Queen was head of state, in the Commonwealth and across the world, a deep sense of gratitude for the more than 70 years in which my mother, as Queen, served the people of so many nations.

"In 1947, on her 21st birthday, she pledged in a broadcast from Cape Town to the Commonwealth to devote her life, whether it be short or long, to the service of her peoples. That was more than a promise: it was a profound personal commitment which defined her whole life. She made sacrifices for duty.

"Her dedication and devotion as sovereign never waived, through times of change and progress, through times of joy and celebration, and through times of sadness and loss.

"In her life of service we saw that abiding love of tradition, together with that fearless embrace of progress, which make us great as nations. The affection, admiration and respect she inspired became the hallmark of her reign.

"And, as every member of my family can testify, she combined these qualities with warmth, humour and an unerring ability always to see the best in people.

“I pay tribute to my mother’s memory and I honour her life of service. I know that her death brings great sadness to so many of you and I share that sense of loss, beyond measure, with you all.

“When the Queen came to the throne, Britain and the world were still coping with the privations and aftermath of the Second World War, and still living by the conventions of earlier times.

“In the course of the last 70 years, we have seen our society become one of many cultures and many faiths.

“The institutions of the state have changed in turn. But, through all changes and challenges, our nation and the wider family of realms – of whose talents, traditions and achievements I am so inexpressibly proud – have prospered and flourished. Our values have remained, and must remain, constant.

“The role and the duties of monarchy also remain, as does the sovereign’s particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England – the church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted.

“In that faith, and the values it inspires, I have been brought up to cherish a sense of duty to others, and to hold in the greatest respect the precious traditions, freedoms and responsibilities of our unique history and our system of parliamentary government.

“As the Queen herself did with such unswerving devotion, I too now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the constitutional principles at the heart of our nation.

“And wherever you may live in the United Kingdom, or in the realms and territories across the world, and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.

“My life will of course change as I take up my new responsibilities. It will no longer be possible for me to give so much of my time and energies to the charities and issues for which I care so deeply. But I know this important work will go on in the trusted hands of others.

“This is also a time of change for my family. I count on the loving help of my darling wife, Camilla. In recognition of her own loyal public service since our marriage 17 years ago, she becomes my Queen Consort. I know she will bring to the demands of her new role the steadfast devotion to duty on which I have come to rely so much.

“As my heir, William now assumes the Scottish titles which have meant so much to me. He succeeds me as Duke of Cornwall and takes on the responsibilities for the Duchy of Cornwall which I have undertaken for more than five decades.

“Today, I am proud to create him Prince of Wales, Tywysog Cymru, the country whose title I have been so greatly privileged to bear during so much of my life and duty. With Catherine beside him, our new Prince and Princess of Wales will, I know, continue to inspire and lead our national conversations, helping to bring the marginal to the centre ground where vital help can be given.

“I want also to express my love for Harry and Meghan as they continue to build their lives overseas.

“In a little over a week’s time, we will come together as a nation, as a Commonwealth and indeed a global community, to lay my beloved mother to rest. In our sorrow, let us remember and draw strength from the light of her example.

“On behalf of all my family, I can only offer the most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your condolences and support. They mean more to me than I can ever possibly express.

“And to my darling Mama, as you begin your last great journey to join my dear late Papa, I want simply to say this: thank you. Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years.

“May ‘flights of angels sing thee to thy rest’”

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# Generous words and real warmth for ‘darling Mama’



Prior to the speech, the King held his first audience with Liz Truss at Buckingham Palace (AP)

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**SEAN O'GRADY**

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We will have to get used to this. King Charles III has popped into our living rooms to say hello for the first time as King.



It was a little startling to see a picture of the Queen on his desk, just as she often had a picture of King George or Prince Philip on hers when she went on television. It was a smart touch, sharing the moment with her.

He had already done the right thing by greeting mourners at Buckingham Palace, shaking hands rather than sweeping past them in the Rolls-Royce. In his broadcast he sought to soothe the upset felt by the nation, and, after a fashion, to indicate that he is only too well aware that his mother is a hard act to follow.

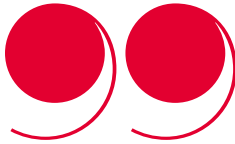
He spoke plainly, directly, and with some considerable warmth, about his “darling Mama”, himself and the people. His bereavement is far deeper than ours, after all, and more consequential. He’s lost another parent; but he has also lost a somewhat enjoyable way of life with Camilla by his side – a rather jolly elderly couple perfectly at ease with themselves. At 73 and pootling along nicely, he’d be forgiven for not wanting to rush to the throne, if he ever really did.

Now he is King, with all the responsibility, work, scrutiny, restraint and media intrusion it entails. He must know the early months of his reign will be watched intently, and that he’ll constantly be compared to Elizabeth II. Inevitably, some will be waiting for him to stumble, though it has to be said he’s well used to a bad press.

He did his best to reassure us that he would try to live up to the high standards set by his mother. He said he would “uphold constitutional principles” and parliamentary democracy. It shouldn’t really be necessary for a constitutional monarch to say that, but it meant two things. First, that he would indeed refrain from controversy and keep his views about policy matters and culture wars to himself, publicly and, as far as possible, privately.



**It was a little startling to see a picture of the Queen on his desk, just as she often had a picture of King George or Prince Philip on hers when she went on television**



Second, you could also read into his words a commitment to resist any attempts by an over-mighty prime minister to – just to take a topical example – prorogue parliament unlawfully with the obvious intention of stymying the elected House of Commons from doing its job. He might also query – no more – why he’s being asked to sign legislation to measures that would breach international law. Given that Boris Johnson is gone, that most of Brexit is behind us and that Liz Truss is unlikely to go rogue, those dangers are passed. He will, as convention allows, warn and advise his ministers.

It was an address generous in spirit and with honours. William is made Prince of Wales, and Catherine becomes Princess of Wales, and he was pointedly kind about her. He also namechecked Prince Harry and Meghan in positive terms. He wishes them well, at least, and perhaps there is a gesture of potential reconciliation. Bereavement can force reflection, and make one wonder whether feuds are really worth it. At any rate, this was not a moment to prompt tabloid headlines about some “snub” to the Sussexes.

He hardly needed to, but, in the phrase used by another king, he is better able to undertake his duties with the woman he loves by his side. Somehow, in the quarter century since the death of

Diana, Charles has managed to turn what was a story of betrayal of his first wife and a scandalous affair into an enchanting love story of a couple destined to be together at last. Now she is not only the love of his life but a sort of business partner, Queen Consort, “in recognition of her own loyal public service”.

“May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest” (from *Hamlet*) was a perfectly chosen closing line. He has a reputation for being wilful and stubborn, but his public humility seems to suit this diffident King very well. It’s an encouraging start.

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# Grief turns to joy as King is greeted by well-wishers



Ebbie Stout was one of thousands who lined Buckingham Palace yesterday (Supplied)

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**THOMAS KINGSLEY**

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Mourners were left “flabbergasted” as King Charles III left his official car to greet well-wishers outside Buckingham Palace.

The new monarch arrived in London from Balmoral following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. He later met with

the prime minister and made his first address as King.

James Walmsley, from Liverpool, saw King Charles as he greeted the crowd. “If you said 24 hours ago ‘you’re going to see the king’ you’d never believe it but now we’re here,” the trainee teacher told *The Independent*.

“Seeing him made us all feel a lot more positive,” the 23-year-old added. “My biggest concern was is the King going to be someone you don’t see very often – just due to age?”

“It’s been a shame not seeing the Queen as much in the last 10 years as in years before, so it was nice seeing him get out of the car and walk around a bit, being active – it’s a nice sign.”



James Walmsley was in disbelief when he saw King Charles  
(Supplied)

Civil servant Alastair from London said he only saw the back of King Charles’s head and his foot but relished the moment as a “piece of history”.

“Being here and seeing him was very monumental even though I just saw the back of his head. I feel very privileged to be here,” the 54-year-old said.

“It was jubilant when he arrived, everyone was respectful and nice. There’s been a sombre feeling but you feel the change with the new monarchy here and now we have a king – I’ve never had a king in my lifetime,” he added.

Student Ash Moad said he was “flabbergasted” greeting the new King. “I could hear the crowd screaming when his car arrived, King Charles was in a car with Camilla herself,” the 20-year-old said.

“It was crazy seeing him in person. Although he had a big smile on his face, everyone could feel he was very sad and low but he was still shaking hands and smiling.



Alastair was only able to see the back of King Charles's head but said it was worth it (Supplied)

“I didn't really get to see Camilla because the spotlight was on him [King Charles]. Before he came everyone seemed a bit sad and low but the mood changed when he arrived.”

Ash added that he feels optimistic about King Charles as the new monarch but said he'll take time to settle into the role as he grieves his mother and father who died last year.

Virgin Active manager Ebbie Stout brought her three-month-old daughter, Vallie, to Buckingham Palace to allow her to be “part of history”. She said she could only see the tops of cars because of the size of the crowds rushing to take pictures of King Charles.

When the King's state Rolls-Royce was first spotted by the crowds as it neared the palace, a cheer went up from well-wishers who had gathered in their thousands outside the gates of the royal residence.





A well-wisher kisses the hand of King Charles III during the walkabout (PA Wire)

One of the first to offer words of support to the new King was Laura Ohmona. After shaking hands with Charles, she said: “I said to him, ‘sorry for your loss’ and he said, ‘thank you.’”

Charles smiled at the words of praise he received from the public and at several moments threw up his hands as if to say “thank you” when condolences were shouted out.

Josephine Bennett, 53, from London, exchanged a few words with the grieving King and said afterwards: “I said, ‘we love you Charles’ and he said, ‘thank you very much’.

“This is all very surreal, but I’m so happy he’s here, I wanted to see him.”

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# We're learning a lot about Britain through the eyes of the Queen's mourners



By 9am yesterday morning the crowds were already queuing (AFP/Getty)

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**TOM PECK**

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The ring of white vans around Buckingham Palace have all got “Party Hire” written on them – and giant pictures of clinking champagne flutes. The marquee rental business really doesn’t have the right livery for this kind of thing. It deals, for the most part, in happy times, not sad ones.

The men putting up the TV tents looked like they knew what they were doing, going through now familiar motions. The last time the marquee village set up here was only a few months ago, for the platinum jubilee.

They're going to be here a while as well. Ten days of national mourning will be anchored here, all the way through to the funeral, rumoured to be next Monday.

By 9am yesterday morning the crowds were already queuing all the way up Constitution Hill to Marble Arch. Queuing just to walk past the front gates, to see the flowers and read the messages and lay some of their own.

"We just wanted to show how grateful we are for everything she's done," said a woman called Caroline Sutton. She'd come in from Kent with her mum, Sue. They'd bought a £10 bouquet at Gillingham station. Once laid, Caroline is heading to the office, Sue going home again.

"I wanted to come more than she did," said Sue. "I would have liked to have come with my own mum, but I can't. She's all I've thought about, really."

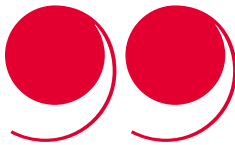
The front-row seats at royal events are usually filled with the same faces, who've become wearily familiar. The first tents pitched outside royal weddings, the prime spots outside the Lindo wing – it's always the same gaggle of royal ultras. This time, not so much.

Most crowds you can spot a mile off. Football crowds, proms crowds, carnival crowds, Crufts crowds, the crowds at the Chelsea Flower Show – no one who's spent more than 10 minutes in the UK would find it hard to deduce which was which.

But you'd be hard-pressed to stick a label on the Victoria Memorial at the moment.



**She is the one constant in my life, you know, the one constant. I know everyone's said it but it's true. She's always just been there**



Young, old, middle-aged, black, white, brown, French, Italian, Thai, suits, ties, trainers, brogues, gilets, desert boots, cargo shorts, leggings, baseball caps, beanie hats, hoodies, bum bags, cappuccinos, vapes, Marlboro Golds. All this, marching slowly forward under umbrellas from the Zetter hotel, from JP Morgan Asset Management and the West Ham United club shop, beside elderly parents pushed along in wheelchairs and little kids on push bikes and scooters.

One woman called Gillian, from Biggleswade near Cambridge, was wearing full funeral attire, including hair piece and veil because, she said, “I am in mourning.”

It takes about 40 minutes to make it to the palace gates, the waiting time slightly extended by the steady stream of pensioners with mobility issues apologetically pushing in at the front and cheerfully welcomed through.

I didn't bring a card but was asked by a young woman in her thirties if I might lay hers for her, a simple white envelope with “Her Majesty” written on it: “I'm sorry, would you mind? I just don't have time to wait.”

Most of the cards are thank you cards. “To our Queen, Thank you for everything. Love The Morleys,” read one. They all say the same.

“I’m just here to pay my respects, to say thank you, you know,” said Paul McCarthy, a postman on his day off. “I can’t believe it, really. It feels like everything’s changed. She is the one constant in my life, you know, the one constant. I know everyone’s said it but it’s true. She’s always just been there.

“She was a good person. She was such a good person. I don’t think all these people are here because you know, 70 years or whatever, they’re here because they loved her. I loved her.”

And that is the crucial sentiment. It’s not too mawkish to suggest the country will not be waiting another 70 years for such a moment. And not too mawkish to speculate that such a moment might feel rather different.

The gathered masses aren’t here to genuflect before some grand institution. No one I spoke to had ever troubled the Mall or the pavements outside Westminster Abbey on a royal occasion before. They just wanted to say goodbye to someone they felt they knew, and liked, and who they already miss.

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# How will Charles reign?

The Queen accrued such prestige that she was unassailable. The King doesn't have that advantage, writes **Sean O'Grady**



The new head of state may settle into the role and gain respect as King (Reuters)

It seems obvious, a cliché – and a bit trite – but it has to be said in the most respectful terms possible: Queen Elizabeth II is a hard act to follow. King Charles III will inevitably have a much shorter reign. He inherits a nation with its global status much denuded in comparison within the global, imperial domain his mother found herself at the head of in 1952.



The Commonwealth has eclipsed empire and most of the old colonies have opted to retain their loose, voluntary association with the crown, but are firmly self-governing and most are republics. The face of the multicultural nation has changed. Yet, oddly, the Queen – born in a more conservative age into a highly conservative family – seemed not only able to adapt to a more diverse Britain, but to encourage and relish it. She didn't alienate her "old school" subjects.

The Queen accrued such prestige and respect over 70 years that she was basically unassailable, untouchable. Charles doesn't have that advantage – and even as sovereign will find himself wide open to critical assault. The age of deference is over for the right, as well as the left.

Optimistically, he may settle into the role and gain respect as King by making himself useful and behaving himself. There is a strong echo here of the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, at the end of another lengthy and momentous reign – and the accession of her feckless, self-indulgent son and then Prince of Wales, crowned Edward VII. He made it his business to assist his ministers and repair the historically poor relationship with France with a highly successful state visit. He also carefully navigated the treacherous politics of the time and did his best to avoid constitutional crises over the abuse of powers by a populist government. Sounds quite familiar, doesn't it?

But, of course, the potential problems for the next reign are equally apparent. Charles's reportedly critical remarks about the government's plan to deport refugees to Rwanda certainly earned him some stinging rebukes from the right of politics.

The question now is whether he can give up his outspoken ways – which funnily enough used to annoy his equally outspoken father – and avoid saying things he probably shouldn't, in private as well as public. His critics are all too ready to label him "woke", eccentric, spoiled, or all of the above. If he can change his habits – and charm his public – then he will redeem himself as comprehensively as did his great-great grandfather. By his side, famously, will be a descendant of one of his great-great-grandfather's many lovers. A trip to Paris might be a good idea,

and help the jury to deliver a verdict of “friend”, to recall Liz Truss’s recent remarks.

On one level, there has never been an heir to the throne better prepared for the role of head of state as Prince Charles. After some 52 years as Prince of Wales – and 70 as heir apparent – he has enjoyed (though that may be overstating it) the longest apprenticeship in history. He has been being prepared for it, just about, since his christening; filmed for the occasion with his grandfather, King



Learning Welsh, aged 20, in July 1969 (AFP/Getty)

George VI, and his great grandmother, Queen Mary (born 1867) – widow of King George V.

At the age of four, he attended his mother’s coronation, looked after by his grandmother – the Queen Mother. He was sent to Gordonstoun school (which he hated) and Trinity College, Cambridge to advance his education, and at Cambridge he was given a former deputy prime minister, Rab Butler, to offer him guidance and informal “political” advice.

The training programme has been methodical. He had his own mini coronation as Prince of Wales in 1969, in a ceremony that combined modernity – Perspex chairs – with Ruritanian flummery. He rounded off his early life with a spell in the Royal Navy, like so many of his predecessors.

The Queen and Prince Philip were always reluctant, for a variety of reasons, to retire and allow their son to take over, even during the Charles ‘n’ Di mania in the mid-1980s. At that point, the unsurpassed peak of Charles’s popularity (ironically, derived from his wife’s charisma), there was serious talk of abdication and this glamorous young couple taking over, almost by public acclaim. Perhaps his parents had a better idea of his shortcomings than the public – and were no doubt better informed about the state of the Wales’s marriage. In any case, they dragged their feet on giving him anything of consequence to do.

However, by the early 1990s, Charles was at last given access to confidential state papers, including cabinet minutes (though they tend to be uninformative). In recent years, the Prince of Wales also took on more of the other foreign visits, important ceremonial roles, including Remembrance Sunday and the State Opening of Parliament (though on that latter occasion he had to share the role with a glittering crown on a cushion, apparently as a reminder to all concerned, including him, that she was still head of state).



His investiture as Prince of Wales in 1969 (PA)

Charles is now as inured to public attention as he can be. He has lived his life, including his love life, and often reluctantly, in the public gaze. His first wedding, to the superstar Diana, was watched by millions on television – and the disintegration of that union was peered at and gawped at by more millions. The

“Tampongate” tapes were probably a low point for embarrassment, though one of many. In terms of his fitness to be head of state, he has definitely recovered from the aftermath of the death of Diana in 1997.

At that moment, the royal family gave off the impression of being cold and uncaring, conforming to a caricature version of the Windsor way of doing things. It was a dangerous moment for the institution of the monarchy itself. It was tottering – salvaged only by the Queen taking her prime minister’s advice to come from Balmoral to London and make a television broadcast. Tony Blair’s reward, the Order of the Garter, was a long time coming.

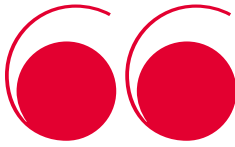
Charles’s behaviour towards the late, beloved princess made him the most hated man in Britain: Camilla Parker Bowles, his “mistress” (to use the misogynistic term current at that time) the most hated woman in Britain. In that respect, at least they were together.

Yet at this distance, we can now see what an important and beneficent role Camilla has played in his mellowing into a rather jolly, happy, ruddy-faced old gentleman – 75 next year. Since their marriage at Windsor Register Office in 2005, they seem to have found a happiness that eluded them for so long, though late in life.

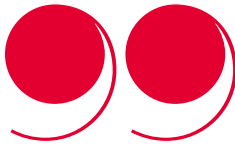
Gradually, “Operation PB” carefully promoted Camilla’s public acceptance – and as Diana’s memory faded, Camilla became more part of the royal gilt wallpaper. She took up charitable causes, such as osteoporosis, made a few speeches, smiled, appeared with her husband on a “platty joobs” edition of *EastEnders*, and did her best to charm the public. Earlier this year, the Queen stated it was her “sincere wish” that Camilla be recognised as Queen Consort when Charles ascended the throne. “Her Majesty Queen Camilla” it is then, something unthinkable even a few years ago.

Unlike his great uncle David (another ex-Prince of Wales and later Edward VIII), and – in a minor key – his son Prince Harry, Prince Charles has been able to marry the woman he loved and retain his royal position. He has had his cake and eaten it, not

least through a remarkable sense of determination, the flip side to his rumoured stubbornness and grumpiness.



**Asked whether his public campaigning would continue, he said: ‘No, it won’t. I’m not that stupid’**



A happy King, then, in a way denied him in the past – albeit he must be judged to the author of his own misfortune, as he must have had some agency over his marriage to Diana. He has had all the training, experience and the example of his mother to draw upon, and he’s shown every indication that he understands the difference between being Prince of Wales and King.

In 2018, marking his 70th birthday, he put it on the record, though unrepentant at previous interventions: “You can’t be the same as the sovereign if you’re the Prince of Wales or the heir. But the idea, somehow, that I’m going to go on in exactly the same way, if I have to succeed, is complete nonsense because the two – the two situations – are completely different.”

Asked whether his public campaigning would continue, he said: “No, it won’t. I’m not that stupid.”

To be coldly practical, the biggest constitutional problem that would have faced the King has now exited the scene – Boris Johnson. Johnson’s taste for testing conventions to their breaking point would probably have brought him into some sort of conflict with his worrisome sovereign.

The unlawful prorogation of parliament in 2019 was the obvious precedent for trouble, but there would have been others with

Johnson still around: abuse of the honours system, especially peerages; misuse of the prime ministerial power to dissolve parliament under new legislation – to avoid a leadership challenge – and generally breaking confidences and trust. Unless Truss goes as rogue as Johnson, the new King won't be faced with such difficult to dilemmas as faced his mother.



King Charles and Camilla married in 2005 (Getty)

Ah, but would King Charles himself provoke a constitutional crisis? It's always possible, but the more difficult problem would probably be if he becomes embroiled in such a row because it's been essentially fabricated by politicians and a media suspicious of any institution that does not conform to their notion of authoritarian, populist nationalism. If, for example, the King felt that some particularly vindictive government policy violated his coronation oath to dispense justice "with mercy", for example.



On past form – and taking into account his pledge to change his ways as King – he probably will be on the more activist end of his traditional constitutional right “to be consulted, the right to encourage, the right to warn”. Much of any activism may well be on relatively minor issues, such as the plight of the Patagonian toothfish he wrote letters to the then New Labour government about in the 1990s.

That was one of a batch of correspondence derided for its “spidery handwriting” and offbeat ideas. No one seems to mind much if he talks about architecture or endangered species. Then again, he has long been a passionate environmentalist – before it was trendy – and he might well look on fracking with a quizzical eye.

He will most likely also continue his mother’s concern for social cohesion – the supposed cause of a rift between the Queen and Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s.

Elsewhere, the King will also have to find a way of funding the causes he adopted, and making sure his many charities have the money they need to function. As became clear recently, some of the enormous cash donations from the Middle East didn’t reflect well on his sense of propriety. Prince William, the new Prince of Wales, has a real challenge in making sense of the tangle of Charles’s finances across the Duchy of Cornwall and various trusts.

It would be tragic if the reign of King Charles III was to be marred by constitutional or financial controversy. He has spent his entire life waiting for this moment – and there is no reason, in principle, why he cannot be another model constitutional monarch (and not go the way of, say Edward VIII or George IV).

The monarchy in Britain is fundamentally strong – and Charles and Camilla have survived some of the most appalling scandals, involving themselves and much of the rest of the family, notably Prince Andrew.

Charles shares with some of his predecessors as princes of Wales a slight sense of entitlement, but, more ominously, a willfulness and desire to have his way.

Camilla and his close advisers will need to ensure that he not only acts as a constitutional monarch must, but errs always on the side of restraint. Behind the florid expressions of loyalty and goodwill, he has more enemies watching his every move than he thinks.

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# Johnson and May remember ‘most remarkable’ monarch

Former prime ministers pay tribute to Queen in Commons



Theresa May praised a ‘woman of immense wisdom’ (UK Parliament)

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**JON STONE**

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Boris Johnson told of how he was “moved to tears” during tributes to Queen Elizabeth II in the House of Commons yesterday, while Theresa May entertained MPs with amusing anecdotes about royal encounters.

The former prime ministers were contributing to a debate in which MPs shared their memories of the monarch, who died on Thursday. Mr Johnson recounted what he described as “a personal confession”.

“A few months ago the BBC came to see me to talk about Her Majesty the Queen. And we sat down and the cameras started rolling. And they requested that I should talk about her in the past tense,” he said.

“And I’m afraid I simply choked up and I couldn’t go on. I’m really not easily moved to tears, but I was so overcome with sadness, that I had to ask them to go away.”

Mr Johnson, who went to see the Queen at Balmoral to resign just three days ago, added: “I know that today there are countless people in this country and around the world, who have experienced the same sudden access of unexpected emotion.”

The ex-PM, who was forced out by his party after a series of sleaze scandals, told MPs the Queen had “humility” and a “refusal to be grand”.

“Unlike us politicians, with our outriders and our armour-plated convoys, I can tell you as a direct eye witness that she drove herself in her own car with no detectives and no bodyguard, bouncing at alarming speed over the Scottish landscape to the total amazement of the ramblers and the tourists we encountered,” he said.

Praising the “indomitable spirit with which she created the modern constitutional monarchy”, he concluded: “The fact that today we can say with such confidence – God save the King – is a tribute to him, but above all to Elizabeth the Great, who worked so hard for the good of her country, not just now but for generations to come.”

Liz Truss said the Queen was “one of the greatest leaders the world has ever known” and hailed her as “a champion of freedom and democracy around the world”.

Praising her “sheer humanity”, the new prime minister said: “She reinvented the monarchy for the modern age. She was a

champion of freedom and democracy around the world. She was willing to have fun – whether on a mission with 007 or having tea with Paddington Bear.”

Referring to a new “Carolean age” as she closed her speech, Ms Truss said Charles “has already made a profound contribution through his work on conservation, education, and his tireless diplomacy – we owe him our loyalty and devotion”.

Ms May recalled how she attended a picnic with the late head of state in the sprawling grounds of Balmoral.

“I remember one picnic at Balmoral, which was taking place in one of the bothies on the estate,” she told MPs in the Commons. “The hampers came from the castle, and we all mucked in to put the food and drink out on the table.

“I picked up some cheese, put it on a plate and was transferring it to the table. The cheese fell on the floor. I had a split-second decision to make.”

Pausing as other MPs in the chamber burst into laughter, the ex-PM added: “I picked up the cheese, put it on the plate and put it on the table. I turned round to see that my every move had been watched very carefully by Her Majesty the Queen.

“I looked at her. She looked at me and she just smiled. And the cheese remained on the table.”

In a glowing tribute, Ms May said the Queen was “quite simply the most remarkable person I have ever met”.

”Across the nations of the world, for so many people, meeting Queen Elizabeth simply made their day and for many will be the memory of their life,” she said.

“Of course, for those of us who had the honour to serve as one of her prime ministers, those meetings were more frequent with the weekly audiences.

“These were not meetings with a high and mighty monarch, but a conversation with a woman of experience and knowledge and immense wisdom. They were also the one meeting I went to, which I knew would not be briefed out to the media.”

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II as “this great country’s greatest monarch” who had unified the nation in times of turbulence. “The loss of our Queen robs this country of its stillest point, its greatest comfort, at precisely the time we need those things most.”

It was now time to take forward the Queen’s legacy, he said, “to show the same love of country, the love of one another, as she did. To show empathy and compassion, as she did, and to get Britain through this dark night and bring it into the dawn, as she did.”

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# MPs spoke for country on a moving day in Westminster



The quality of the tributes to the Queen in the Commons was surprising (PRU/AFP)

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**JOHN RENTOUL**

CHIEF POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

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When people start talking about “parliament at its best” it is usually time to make one’s excuses. Obviously, it is right that the proprieties are observed and that tributes are paid, and it is my

job to observe what goes on in the House of Commons and to comment on it, but I thought this would be a dutiful task rather than an interesting one.

Instead, just as many people were surprised by their grief at the death of the Queen – Sean O’Grady, my colleague, has written movingly about it in the Voices section, and Boris Johnson, of all people, spoke affectingly about how he was taken unawares – I was surprised by the quality of the speeches in the Commons in tribute to her.

The new prime minister spoke plainly and well. Her first few speeches since she won the Conservative leadership election have appeared to have been written by an artificial intelligence programme, into which supposedly Thatcherite texts have been fed.

The output is coherent at sentence level, but there is no thread of argument or indeed often any connection between sentences at all. Liz Truss’s words in Downing Street on becoming prime minister contained repetitions and non sequiturs that betrayed haste and a multiplicity of authors.

Yesterday, though, her words cohered. She quoted the Queen’s words of wartime comfort during the pandemic, when “she gave us hope that we would meet again”.

Keir Starmer, too, managed to fit his voice to the occasion. His earnestness, which sometimes grates, was softened by the seriousness of the mood in the chamber, and by some deft writing. He quoted Philip Larkin’s lines from the Queen’s silver jubilee in 1977: “In times when nothing stood / But worsened, or grew strange, / There was one constant good: / She did not change.”

It was a sentiment of such startling conservatism, Larkin at his most reactionary, that it should have sounded incongruous from a Labour leader, and yet it captured the essence of the Queen’s popularity. “The loss of our Queen robs this country of its stillest point, its greatest comfort, at precisely the time we need those things most,” he said.

This was the Commons at its respectful best, so all speeches were heard in silence, and no one heckled or intervened, but I wonder how many of those in the chamber noticed that the tributes to Her Majesty were led by a prime minister and a leader of the opposition who both wanted to abolish the monarchy in their youth. That, in a way, was the highest tribute to the success with which the Queen rendered the monarchy unassailable.

One or two MPs commented on it indirectly. John Cryer, Labour MP for Leyton and Wanstead, said that it was her achievement, and that of her father, to take an institution that was “teetering” in the 1930s and make it the most firmly supported by the British people of any of the institutions in the country.

Others did so by telling their own stories. Harriet Harman, the mother of the House, who went on an anti-monarchical awayday to France in 1981 to get away from the royal wedding (before she became an MP in 1982), recounted how, after being sacked from her cabinet post after a year of the Labour government, she received an invitation to tea from the Queen.

It was Boris Johnson who stole the show, surprising his many critics by delivering a fine speech. He was never a good parliamentary orator – his after-dinner speaking style, well-suited to TV satire shows, did not translate well to House of Commons set pieces, although he could do the knockabout effectively enough.

Now he showed he had learned something from being prime minister for three years. He said he found himself unexpectedly emotional when recording a tribute to the Queen for use after her death and the BBC asked him to refer to her in the past tense. Yes, it was all about him, but it was all about her as well. As was his recounting of his meeting with her on Tuesday: “She was as radiant and as knowledgeable and as fascinated by politics as ever I can remember, and as wise in her advice as anyone I know if not wiser.”

He even offered some well-crafted words about the “brilliant and durable bargain of a constitutional monarchy” – the bargain that explains how, if the monarch is wise, even people who resent the hereditary principle will accept and even respect a hereditary head of state in preference to an elected president.

That is the deal that the Queen made work so well, by her discretion and care not to become embroiled in (too much) politics. It was the thread that ran through so many of the speeches yesterday, and which gave them the quality of surprising graciousness.

Ian Blackford, Westminster leader of the Scottish National Party, called her “Queen of Scots”, which was generous after her interference in the 2014 independence referendum. Theresa May spoke of her relief at the Queen’s discretion, knowing that their weekly meetings were “the one meeting I went to which I knew would not be briefed out to the media”.

As Harman put it, “everyone, even those who don’t agree with the hereditary principle of the monarchy, cannot but marvel at her personal qualities”. That is the mark of her success, and the challenge for the King who succeeds her.

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# Balmoral's respect to Queen who 'was part of the parish'



Well-wishers at the Scottish castle pay their respects yesterday (Getty)

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**HOLLY BANCROFT**

IN BALMORAL

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Throughout the day, the coaches kept arriving. Thousands of mourners, clutching their bouquets of flowers, made the walk across the River Dee and up to the black and gold gates of Balmoral Castle. Bowing their heads, they paid their respects to



Britain's longest reigning monarch and the first to die in Scotland.

Inside the castle, the Queen's coffin, covered with the royal standard of Scotland, was reportedly placed in the Balmoral ballroom to allow household staff to pay their respects. It is a room that many of them would have known as the site of the Ghillies Ball, an annual ball that brings together staff, members of the local community and senior royals for a night of Scottish dancing.



Fiddler Paul Anderson, pictured and Shona Donaldson, played for the Queen (Holly Bancroft)

The young Princess Elizabeth was first allowed to attend at aged 12 and had loved it ever since. Paul Anderson, 52, a fiddle player who had played often for the Queen, was at the ball only a few



weeks ago. “It would surprise folk how laid back it is,” he told *The Independent* outside Balmoral castle.

“The Queen wasn’t able to attend this year but all the other senior royals came, Charles, Edward, Anne, and you see them totally relaxed and happy. All sorts of people are invited, the butcher of Ballater comes along, it’s a real cross-section of the local community.”



Melissa, Gary and Samuel Dutson (left to right) came to Balmoral to pay their respects (Holly Bancroft)

He recalled the Queen’s love of traditional Scottish music, adding that he often played for her at services in Crathie Kirk, the royals’ home church when they were staying in Balmoral. “I took part in a wee religious observance for her at Balmoral in the first year of Covid, when the churches weren’t open, but things

had opened up enough that she requested a small service,” Mr Anderson recalled.

He said that the Queen would stay seated till the very end of the services at her local church, tapping her foot along to the music. “She would always look across and give me a wee smile,” he added.



Crowds of mourners turned up at the castle yesterday (Getty)

Speaking about her death, he said: “I can’t really put it into words. It’s a numb feeling, a shock. She had been so obviously in public view with the prime minister coming up and she was doing her duty until the very end. Then pretty much the next day she was away. It’s hard to get round that change.”

Shona Donaldson, 37, who has sung for the Queen on multiple occasions, said that the people coming to Balmoral were mourning a member of their community, a local resident. “She certainly was part of the community round here,” she said. “She went to church and you would often see her and other senior royals out and about. The Queen was just part of the parish,” Mr Anderson added. “Apart from sitting on the royal pew she wasn’t treated any different.”



Members of the public get on a shuttle bus from Ballater, Aberdeenshire to Balmoral to pay their tributes (AP)

Piles of flowers and tributes built up at the gates to Balmoral throughout the day and the weather stayed clear for the well-wishers yesterday. One message left with a bunch of flowers read: “We will miss her greatly, but it is so wonderful to have her example of constancy, patience and warm leadership. She has seen us through many trials as a nation with courage and faithfulness.”

The Queen’s coffin will now reportedly stay at the Scottish estate until tomorrow, when it will be driven to the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. It will then travel to London to lie in state in the Palace of Westminster. Andrew Day, 49, travelled 40 miles to Balmoral because his mother, who died four weeks ago, was a keen royalist.





Well-wishers of all ages have been sharing their grief (Getty)

Speaking about her death, Mr Day told *The Independent*: “That emotion for me is still very raw, but there is a lot of comfort from coming here today. There is a shared grief in a sense. My mother loved the service of the royal family. “The Bishop in her funeral spoke of her duty and her commitment to service – very much like Her Majesty the Queen. So I really felt like it was my duty to come here today to pay my respects. I’ve written a card to Charles and in it I explained about my mother. I told him: ‘People will tell you lots of things, I’ll keep it quite simple, be sad and cry a lot because that’s the natural order of things. It’s quite simple.’”

Many visitors to the castle were brought to tears as they reflected on the Queen’s life. One mourner, Aga Kanska, broke down as she spoke about why she had travelled to Balmoral. “We’ve been living in Scotland the past 17 years. She was a part of our lives too, even though we are Polish. But we feel like she was our Queen too,” she said. Melissa Dutson, from the Cotswolds, was visiting her son in Perth and felt she had to pay her respects. “We have the deepest respect for our Queen and we are mourning her loss,” she said.

“I was devastated, shocked, filled with overwhelming sadness when I heard the news. She has been an integral part in all of our lives.” She was confident that King Charles would follow in his mother’s footsteps, saying: “He is my hero, always has been. He will do an amazing job and we will be as proud of him as we are the Queen.”

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# ‘You will never be forgotten’

Thousands flock to Windsor Castle to pay their respects



Flowers, balloons and tributes outside the royal residence yesterday (Getty)

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**COLIN DRURY**

IN WINDSOR

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When she woke yesterday morning, Rahila Akhtar says she still felt in shock. “It was just emptiness,” she said. “The only thing I can compare it to is when my mum passed away four years ago. It was the same sense of ‘what now?’”

On a sombre day outside Windsor Castle, the 49-year-old was one of the thousands of mourners who came to pay their

respects following the Queen's death on Thursday.

Through morning and afternoon, they kept arriving, turning the ground around the famous Long Walk gates into a small sea of flowers, candles and notes filled with both grief and gratitude. "You will never be forgotten, Ma'am," read one simply.

"We have a million things to do today because we're going on holiday tomorrow," said Akhtar, a microbiologist who lives in Windsor and had come with 22-year-old daughter Aishah. "But we felt it was so important to pay our respects and to say thank you for everything she has done for our country."

What would her mother think knowing the Queen's death had evoked similar emotions in her daughter to that of her own passing? "Oh she'd understand," came the reply. "She was as big a royalist as me."

For fast-approaching a thousand years, Windsor Castle – said to be the Queen's favourite residence – has been home to the monarchy. Yet rarely can it have seen an outpouring of grief quite like this.

Tears, bowed heads and hushed tones were everywhere. Even the weather, swapping between rain and shine, appeared unable to make up its mind if it should reflect the public mood or offer respite from it.



Rahila and Aishah Akhtar came to say 'thank you for everything she has done for our country' (Colin Drury)



“It’s like the nation’s grandma has gone,” said Timothy Lee.

“And I think it will take time to begin to process that. I almost sense bafflement. She’s been here so long we don’t know how she can’t be here anymore. It gives me chills thinking about.”

The 45-year-old retail designer from Hampshire had taken the morning off work, and told his team to do the same should they feel the need. “I think, for a lot of people, it will be very difficult to concentrate today,” he said.

His wife Charlotte, a nurse, had become a royalist after meeting the Queen Mother while on a school trip to Buckingham Palace when she was just 16. “I was just this schoolgirl but she genuinely could not have been more interested in me,” the 46-year-old said. “She asked so many questions. She made me feel the centre of her universe, and they say Queen was exactly the same.”



Timothy and Charlotte Lee: ‘We don’t know how she can’t be here anymore’ (Colin Drury)

Another mourner, indeed, had some experience of just that.

As a paramedic, Chrissi Frewer had been stationed inside Windsor Castle for Prince Philip’s 90th birthday celebrations back in 2011. Yesterday, she still remembered with unerring clarity how a colleague was sat with his feet on the vehicle’s dashboard when the royal family, quite unexpectedly, drove slowly past.

“She gave him such a stern look that his feet immediately came down,” the 42-year-old laughed. “I’ve never seen anyone move so fast. And then she made real eye contact with all four of us. She smiled and gave a wave. It made me feel 10 feet tall. I will never forget it. She had such authority but also enough humility to really acknowledge us.”

As the day progressed, the mourners continued coming. Yet – in a way that one suspects the Queen may have appreciated – a sense of normality also returned to this royal town.

Thames Water workers could be seen fixing pipes just by the castle entrance, while gardeners got on with tending the property’s sprawling grounds. A cafe owner declared it important to stay positive. “It’s good for business, at least,” she said eyeing the crowds. “And we need that right now.”



Chrissi Frewer cluches a bouquet (Colin Drury)

Perhaps, however, the last word should go to two more people among the mourning crowd: Megan Blacklock and Suzanne Brown.

Aged 81 and 77 respectively, the pair – who were here on a prearranged coach trip from their native North East – are among the minority of Britons who have experienced life under another monarch, the Queen’s father George VI.

“I remember her coronation – my family bought a TV especially to watch it,” said Brown, a retired headteacher. “We had a lot of hope she’d be a good Queen – it was the second Elizabethan Age and all that – but I don’t think anyone could have possibly imagined how good, or how long she’d reign.”

The death, interjected Blacklock, had brought home thoughts of her own mortality.

“At my age, you think about that anyway,” the retired managing director said. “But this is another reminder you can’t live forever.”

No one can, she added: “not even the greatest Queen.”

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# Reformer who could make or break the monarchy



As heir to the throne, Charles had his passions and he will surely not abandon them now (Getty)

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**MARY DEJEVSKY**

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The heir's long wait is over. At the moment of the Queen's death, the Prince became King.

The very simplicity of dynastic succession is one reason why the monarchy has survived as an institution to this day. Another is that, with a hereditary monarch as head of state, no one else may occupy or aspire to that position, leaving the Crown largely



above day-to-day politics but with a crucial small residue of power.

The constitutional constraints on the monarch will not change with the accession of Charles III, nor is the King likely to seek to loosen them. But he will probably not be as reticent on public matters as his mother either, who worked more through intimations and wishes conveyed indirectly. Her advice to Scots to “think carefully” before casting their vote in the independence referendum was about as clear as her political intervention ever became.

How far such cautious obliqueness is compatible with the national and international trend for more openness and accountability, or indeed with constitutional democracy itself in the 21st century, can be questioned. But it will probably take a new generation, or a major royal scandal, before that discussion even starts.

King Charles also seems to have retreated on one change he had mooted as early as two decades ago: to alter his title as monarch from “Defender of the Faith” to the broader “Defender of Faith”.

Some saw such a change as little short of revolutionary in signalling an end to the identification of the monarch with the Church of England and even with Christianity. Others saw it as no more than a minor tweak. In 2015, however, Charles backtracked, arguing that the title was broad enough and would remain unchanged.

But Charles had his passions as Prince of Wales, and he will surely not abandon them now. He has in the past conceded that, as King, he might express himself more cautiously, in keeping with his new responsibilities. But this also suggests in turn that he intends still to speak out on matters close to his heart, albeit in what might be called a more monarch-appropriate tone.

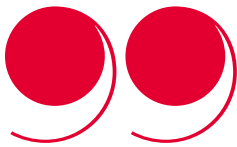
And whether or not he retreats on “Defender of Faith”, the fact that he even raised the question all those years ago shows a longstanding awareness that the country he was brought up to rule is very different in its social conventions and ethnic make-up from the one where his mother began her reign.

The former prince's passions also show a degree of prescience. He associated himself with a number of causes that seem at least as pertinent now, and in some cases even more so, than when he took them up in his relative youth.

He can justifiably claim – as he did recently – to have been an environmentalist and a green campaigner almost before these concerns entered the mainstream, let alone gained the following they enjoy today.



**Who should qualify for a ‘royal wedding’? Beatrice and Eugenie, really? How many royals are needed to open new schools and hospitals?**



He is an enthusiast for early 20th-century English music, an accomplished watercolourist, and has long taken a keen interest in architecture, where his aesthetic sense soon brought him into conflict with parts of the architectural establishment.

His well-known hostility to a planned National Gallery extension as a “monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend” killed that design. He put his own architectural and social principles into action at Poundbury, the “model” village he built on his own land in Dorset.

It is loved by its residents even as it is derided as pastiche traditionalism by his foes – something Charles might regard as vindication. One glance at the London skyline could prompt people to ask why the future King did not speak out more often in defence of his “much-loved and elegant friends”. Might he raise his voice now?



Charles channelled a crusading interest in social issues into his charity, the Prince's Trust, and was recently quoted as describing the government's plans to send would-be migrants to Rwanda as "appalling" – a comment that was not denied.

How far might he be able to exert more influence on government as King than he could as Prince, including in the personal letters he regularly sent to ministers? That will become clear only with time, but he will have an almost unique opportunity to set a tone, address those in power and raise public expectations in a way that could be happily consonant with the times. In so doing, he might not cause a revolution, but he could foster change.

For all his appearance of remoteness, he also starts with more of a connection to his subjects and the social change they have experienced than might be realised. Unhappily married, divorced, remarried, with a "blended" family, a grandson with a wife of mixed race, and a brother who kept unsavoury company, he is no stranger to family complexity. And in matters of family and personal conduct, he has choices that are within his power, and they include shaping the institution of the monarchy for the future.

He inherits from his mother the idea of a slimmed and streamlined royal family, with just the monarch and immediate heirs pictured on major occasions. That image, however, has not (yet) been translated into reality, with a large number of royals, and their staff, on the payroll.

As King, and head of the family, Charles can decide how the royals – and through them, the institution of the monarchy – will relate to the people. Will he modernise the monarchy along Dutch or Scandinavian lines, expecting those outside the direct line of succession to live lives that are closer to those of ordinary people?

Could King Charles decide to reduce, or even abolish the sovereign grant (formerly the civil list), and live largely from the not inconsiderable income of his estates? Might he choose more modest accommodation than Buckingham Palace, for which

some other use could be found? Could – should – some of the state ceremonials be pared back or even abolished, starting perhaps with the state opening of parliament, even as its value to tourism is recognised?



King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort, walk towards Buckingham Palace yesterday (AFP/Getty)

Who should qualify for a “royal wedding”? Beatrice and Eugenie, really? How many royals are needed to open new schools and hospitals? Couldn’t a celebrity do the job, or no one at all? How much royal work might Charles delegate to Prince William and Kate Middleton?

The Queen regarded her service as a lifelong duty, after what was seen as the disgrace of Edward VIII’s abdication. Could Charles one day rehabilitate abdication and retire to the gentleman’s life that seems to suit him?

Charles has become King at 73, years after most of his subjects of the same age started claiming their pensions. How much enthusiasm will he have for modernising the monarchy or instituting change? Then again, he has had decades to consider his role as a 21st-century King.

Maybe he will want to get a move on, fearing that time could run out. And how much change do Charles III’s subjects really want? How attached are they not just to the ceremonial associated with the monarchy, but to the aura and mystery that attends the monarch? Does the UK want a modern monarchy that is closer

to the people, or a monarchy complete with all the trappings – or not at all?

Charles hardly comes over as a revolutionary. But he becomes a King whose choices could make or break the monarchy. With two heirs in place, he could leave the institution fitter and more suited to the times than it is now.

Or he could, by his own misjudgements and his distance from his subjects, fuel agitation for alternatives, such as an elected presidency. His ambitions, at least, should become clear soon enough.

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# Who and what is involved in the Accession Council?



King Charles III's proclamation ceremony will be televised live this morning (PA)

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**ADAM FORREST**

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Charles III will be formally proclaimed King at a special Accession Council ceremony at St James's Palace at 10am this morning when the ceremony will be televised for the very first time.

Charles automatically became King on the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, but an Accession Council is convened as the next major order of business soon after the death of a sovereign.

Buckingham Palace confirmed that cameras will be allowed inside the state apartments to capture the proceedings for the first time in British history. A principal proclamation declaring Charles the new King will be read by the Garter King of Arms in the open air from the balcony overlooking St James's at 11am.

It will be followed by a flurry of proclamations around the country, the second one coming in the City of London at the Royal Exchange at midday, and further proclamations in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales at midday tomorrow.

In recognition of the new sovereign, union flags will be flown at full mast for 24 hours, from the time of the first proclamation until one hour after the proclamations in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. They will return to half-mast for the rest of the 10-day mourning period.

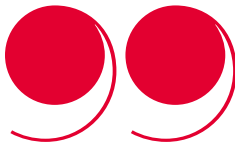
Historically the entire Privy Council – senior figures in the British establishment – is summoned to the Accession Council to oversee the formal proclamation of a new monarch. But with the huge number of privy counsellors now in place, lifetime members and mostly past and present politicians, now standing at more than 700, restrictions have been put in place.

Just 200 will be summoned, and those cut will be asked to enter an annual ballot for a few remaining seats, prompting a recent row over the lack of consultation and the loss of key duty.

So who is present at the special ceremony and who plays key roles? Conservative MP Penny Mordaunt will lead the proclamation ceremony for Charles after Liz Truss appointed her both Commons leader and lord president of the Privy Council this week.



**The Privy Council is the oldest form of legislative assembly still functioning in the UK, dating back to the time of the Norman kings**



Ms Mordaunt is yet to be formally “declared” in the role because the event was postponed on Wednesday when the Queen was urged to rest. But No 10 confirmed on Friday that the Portsmouth North MP will officiate as “acting” lord president. She will receive the title on a permanent basis after being declared so by the King.

Ms Truss and other chosen privy counsellors will gather at St James’s Palace to proclaim the new sovereign. Camilla, the new Queen Consort, and the Duke of Cornwall and Cambridge are already privy counsellors so will be present.

When the meeting begins, the lord president (Ms Mordaunt) announces the death of the sovereign and calls upon the clerk of the council to read aloud the text of the accession proclamation.

The platform party – made up of the prime minister, Camilla and William, the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor, the archbishop of York, the lord privy seal, the lord great chamberlain, the earl marshal and the lord president – then sign the proclamation.

The lord president then calls for silence and reads the remaining items of business, which deal with the dissemination of the proclamation and various orders giving directions for firing guns at Hyde Park and the Tower of London.



The second part of the process sees Charles enter and hold his first council, which is only attended by privy counsellors. Charles will first make a personal declaration about the death of the Queen. One of his next acts will be to take the oath to preserve the Church of Scotland, since in Scotland there is a division of powers between church and state.

He will read it out loud and sign two identical instruments recording the taking of the oath, with his signature witnessed by Camilla, the Duke of Cornwall and Cambridge, and others – including the Scotland secretary Alister Jack and the Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon.

The Privy Council is the oldest form of legislative assembly still functioning in the UK, dating back to the time of the Norman kings when the monarch met in private – hence the description “privy” – with a group of trusted counsellors.

Meetings take place with members standing up throughout. Queen Victoria is believed to have started the convention in 1861 following the death of her beloved consort Prince Albert when she wished to reduce her public duties to the minimum necessary.

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# Biden to attend ‘biggest UK policing operation ever’

Queen’s funeral will see officers deployed from many forces



A police officer looks at flowers laid outside Buckingham Palace following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday (PA)

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**LIZZIE DEARDEN**

HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

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President Joe Biden and dozens of other world leaders will attend the Queen's funeral as preparations are made for what could be the "biggest policing and protective operation the UK has ever mounted."

Monarchs and heads of state from countries around the globe are expected to gather in Westminster Abbey for a solemn gathering on a scale seldom witnessed in recent decades.

Mr Biden said yesterday he will be present, although the date has yet to be confirmed.

Thousands of police officers will be on duty every day in the capital as crowds gather at Buckingham Palace and nearby Green Park to pay their respects, and the force has urged people to "remain vigilant".

The Queen's coffin will lie in state for several days ahead of her funeral, which is expected to be attended by US president Joe Biden and dignitaries from around the world.

Nick Aldworth, who led the "protect and prepare" strand of national counterterrorism policing until his retirement in May 2019, said the events would take place in a "very different threat world" than the deaths of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the Queen Mother.

"This will be probably the biggest policing and protective operation the UK has ever mounted," he told *The Independent*. "It just takes one car, one person to do something abhorrent and not only have you disrupted a constitutional event, people will be injured and killed."

It comes months after a man armed with a crossbow allegedly travelled to Windsor Castle and threatened to kill the Queen. In 2017, a sword-wielding Isis supporter attempted a terror attack at Buckingham Palace, while two members of a neo-Nazi terrorist group were jailed for inciting attacks on Prince Harry in 2019.

Owen West, a retired chief superintendent who specialised in public order, said police would be working to ensure the public can "express their grief" safely. "It will be focused around

engagement and dialogue with those in the crowd, sharing information that might help them, keeping essential routes free,” he told *The Independent*.

“Large crowds, these days, represent a potential threat to hostile acts so there will be an eye on risk assessment and measures to help protect the body of a crowd against that potential.”

Roads have been closed to form secure barriers around crowded sites, with barriers and other “hostile vehicle mitigation” measures put up. A significant armed operation will be in place for the Queen’s state funeral, including rooftop snipers guarding the procession and patrols on the ground.

Scotland Yard said it had initiated “well-rehearsed policing plans” but has not yet confirmed whether it will pull officers in from other parts of the country to bolster its ranks.

A spokesperson said requests under “mutual aid” protocols will almost certainly be made over the coming days, and that the National Police Coordination Centre would be organising officer movements, rest days, pay, and arrangements for hosting volunteer officers.



**Mr Aldworth said he had first seen Operation London Bridge, then ‘a dusty ring binder on a shelf’, over 20 years ago and that ‘current threat methodologies’ had changed**



“During Operation London Bridge, it is expected that the overall policing operation will last for between 10 to 14 days,

involving support from forces across the UK, and utilising multiple policing capabilities,” a spokesperson added.

“Due to the nature of Operation London Bridge, which will involve a great number of foreign dignitaries and large crowds, a wide range of police capabilities and specialisms will be called on to assist with the security operation being led by the Metropolitan Police.”

Police leaders said the forces most affected by the arrangements have “longstanding” plans in place to cope with the extra demand. A spokesperson for the National Police Chiefs’ Council added: “Police forces have business continuity plans in place to ensure they are prepared to assist with this operation, in addition to continuing their core service to the public, keeping communities safe.”

Cross-government procedures originally drawn up in the 1960s under the name Operation London Bridge have been updated and reviewed over the years. Mr Aldworth said he had first seen Operation London Bridge, then “a dusty ring binder on a shelf”, over 20 years ago and that “current threat methodologies” had changed.

He said he was not aware of a comparable event that had taken place since the main terror threat to the UK became “lone actors”, often using vehicles and knives, rather than bombings and complex plots directed by terror groups.

The former senior Metropolitan Police officer said that crowds of people present a potential target, as well as high-profile attendees at commemorative events. He recalled that while working on the 2012 London Olympics, mutual aid was implemented to “bring in pretty much every armed officer in the country” to guard international VIPs because of a shortage of protection officers.

Mr Aldworth said that despite the expectation that attendees will be well-intentioned mourners, in tight crowds police “haven’t got a chance of differentiating between people” who get too close to the funeral procession or dignitaries.



Ahead of the funeral, officers are being posted outside key locations, including major railway stations, the royal parks and outside royal residences in London. Road closures are being put in place around Buckingham Palace and crowded areas as part of the security arrangements, and the public have been asked to remain vigilant.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Stuart Cundy said: “This will be an extremely poignant moment for the nation, and I know people will want to pay respects and celebrate the Queen’s dedication to public service.

“Working closely with the City of London Police and British Transport Police, the Met will now coordinate and deploy a comprehensive policing plan in London. This operation will be highly visible, particularly in Westminster and areas around Buckingham Palace and St James’s Park.

“A great number of police officers will be on duty during this period, to ensure the safety of those visiting London and to deter any potential criminality.”

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# Truss's plans to 'hit ground running' are left in disarray

Government business is suspended for 10 days of mourning



The new prime minister will not now be able to visit Ukraine and the US this month (PA)

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**ANDREW WOODCOCK**

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The death of the Queen has thrown Liz Truss's plans to "hit the ground running" after becoming prime minister on Tuesday into disarray.

Entering office at a time of crisis both domestically and internationally, the new PM had planned to cram a hail of announcements, visits and speeches into her first few weeks in office, aware that she had far fewer than the usual “first 100 days” to make an impact.

In doubt are mooted visits to Kyiv, New York and Washington, speeches, visits and interviews to boost her profile and that of her newly appointed ministers, and an emergency Budget to implement the tax cuts which formed the centrepiece of her campaign for the Tory leadership.

Downing Street has said that the closure of parliament for the 10-day period of national mourning should not affect the timetable for Ms Truss’s energy freeze, which will ensure average annual bills for domestic gas and electricity are no more than £2,500 over the next two years.

Some legislation is required to enact all elements of the plan for the planned date of 1 October. No 10 insists there will be no delay in implementation.

Talks are under way with the Commons speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle to ensure that the necessary legislation can be passed by MPs after the mourning period is over, without the need to recall parliament.

Meanwhile, other major moments in the political calendar are at risk. The TUC yesterday postponed its annual congress, which had been due to commence in Brighton tomorrow. No decision has yet been made on whether the Liberal Democrat conference in the same city can go ahead as planned from 17-20 September, potentially covering the date of Elizabeth II’s state funeral.

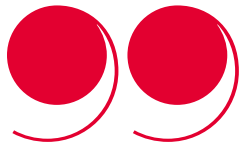
Further down the track, it is not known whether the Labour conference in Liverpool on 25-28 September or the Conservative conference in Birmingham on 2-5 October will be affected. Each is regarded as a vital opportunity for Ms Truss and Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer to set out the platforms for the year ahead leading into the 2024 general election.

News of the Queen's serious illness came just moments after the new PM had launched the first of her planned interventions, forcing Ms Truss to leave the Commons chamber shortly after unveiling her £100bn-plus energy price guarantee.

Under normal conditions, the measure would have been certain to dominate TV broadcasts and newspaper front pages and be a topic of conversation for days. Tory strategists will be concerned that the impact of an effective £1,000 handout to every household in the country, which could normally be expected to deliver a significant boost to the new PM in the polls, will be blunted.



**It is understood that the chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng's emergency Budget was pencilled in for 19 September, which is now a likely date for the royal funeral**



Ms Truss said during the leadership campaign that she wanted to make a trip to Kyiv one of her first international visits, in order to show continued UK support for Ukraine and its president, Volodymyr Zelensky. This cannot now take place in the coming weeks.

And a planned trip to New York to speak at the UN general assembly, expected in the week of 19 September, may now have to be called off, depending on the date of the Queen's funeral.

Downing Street was thought to be exploring the possibility of adding a trip to the White House for face-to-face talks with the US president Joe Biden. However, world leaders are expected to

flood into London to pay their respects to the late monarch. Mr Biden himself has said that he will “probably” attend.

Downing Street said no bilateral meetings with visiting heads of government have been arranged, though it is likely that Ms Truss will speak to some of them at No 10 or elsewhere. But the circumstances of their trip will make the kind of intensive political talks which normally take place on the margins of UN summits inappropriate.

A series of calls from world leaders to offer their condolences have focused solely on paying respects to Elizabeth II, and the PM is not using the opportunity to discuss political or diplomatic issues.

It is understood that the chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng’s emergency Budget was pencilled in for 19 September, which is now a likely date for the royal funeral.

With parliament due to go into recess for conference season on 23 September, that may now be knocked back into October. However, much of the urgency of the fiscal event has been removed by Thursday’s announcement of immediate action on the cost of living crisis.

Mr Kwarteng may welcome any additional time he gains to work out the costing for the energy package as well as the fine details of Ms Truss’s promised reversal of this year’s national insurance rise and scrapping of the planned corporation tax hike. It will also provide the Office for Budget Responsibility more time to prepare its forecasts of the economic impact of the new PM’s plans.

The period of national mourning and reflection may give Ms Truss time to breathe politically and an opportunity to appear as the leader of the country at a momentous time.

But it also denies her the opportunity to make an impact with voters during a period when many will be making up their minds on whether her arrival in the place of Boris Johnson is a good thing or not.



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# ‘Island of stability’: world’s press pay tribute to Queen



Media outlets across world praise Britain's longest-reign monarch for her friendship and warmth (The Independent)

**RORY SULLIVAN**

The death of Queen Elizabeth II's made front-page headlines around the world yesterday, with the longest-reigning UK monarch praised for being an "island of stability".

The sovereign died at Balmoral, her Scottish residence, on Thursday at the age of 96, following months of speculation about her health. Yesterday, newspapers across the globe poured out their grief, commending her warmth and lifetime of public service.

Given her prominence on the international stage, even unlikely publications such as *Corriere dello Sport – Stadio*, a specialist sports paper in Italy, paid tribute to the 96-year-old on its front page.



French press ‘loved her so much’ and feels ‘the pain of England’ (Le Parisien/Libération)

In France, the typically anti-monarchist *Libération* newspaper reported that her passing had “sent a shockwave round the world”. “Can she really depart so suddenly, an island of stability in a world in which everything seems to be changing too quickly?” its editorial asked.

Other French outlets were similarly saddened by the Queen’s death. While *Le Figaro* ran a headline wishing her “adieu”, *Le Parisien*’s read: “we loved her so much”.



Italian papers toast 'the Queen of two centuries' and says UK 'mourns its Queen' (Corriere Della Serra/Corriere Della Sport)

Elsewhere in Europe, the Spanish daily *El País* said the monarch's 70-year reign was typified by a "neutrality" which had "guaranteed the continuity of the British crown", while the Italian *Corriere della Sera* described her as the "forever Queen".

Meanwhile, the German *Westfälische Nachrichten* newspaper said the Queen knew how to approach people "with friendliness and devotion". It also alluded to her visit to Germany in 1965, which was widely considered a magnanimous act of post-war reconciliation.



Spain's 'El País' and Portugal's 'Diário de Notícias' mark the Queen's passing (El Pais/Diário de Notícias)



The liberal Japanese *Asahi* newspaper also carried several pieces, including one headlined “wound of the war, deep pain of the heart”, about the Queen’s interactions with Japan’s imperial family on the subject of the Second World War. The Queen’s 70-year reign was also celebrated in the US for the continuity it embodied in a changing world.

“The Queen’s most obvious achievement was to provide an element of continuity in a world that is in a fever of change,” an article in Bloomberg said.



America’s papers gave the bulk of their front pages to the Queen (NYT/Washington Post)

Her “natural royal dignity” was celebrated by *The New York Times*, one of whose columnists wrote: “it is hard to name any reigning royal in the world who still personifies that power, and none who do it as graciously and convincingly as Queen Elizabeth did.”

Newspapers in Commonwealth countries also sung the monarch’s praises, with *The Australian* saying hers was a life “devoted to service”. *The Globe and Mail* in Toronto said it was “remembering our Queen”.

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# Murder probe over police shooting of unarmed man



Chris Kaba was fatally shot dead following a car pursuit in London (PA)

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**NATALIE CROCKETT**

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The police watchdog has launched a murder investigation into the death of an unarmed Black man shot dead by police in southwest London.

Chris Kaba, 24, was shot in Streatham Hill on Monday following a pursuit that saw the Audi he was driving hemmed in by two police cars in a narrow residential street.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) said Kaba died after a single shot was fired by a Met Police officer from the specialist firearms command while police attempted to stop and contain the vehicle he was driving.

Scotland Yard said it was cooperating with the murder probe and the officer under investigation had been removed from operational duties.

The IOPC said armed officers had pursued Kaba after an automatic number plate recognition camera indicated the vehicle was linked to an earlier firearms incident. The car was not registered to Kaba, the watchdog added.

In a statement announcing the the murder investigation, the IOPC said: “Our investigation team is continuing to gather and review a large amount of evidence, however as this is now a criminal investigation, we are limited in what further information we can provide. The launch of a criminal investigation does not mean that criminal charges will necessarily follow.

“We have notified Mr Kaba’s family of this latest development. We continue to ask that people avoid speculating about this incident out of respect for Mr Kaba’s family and for everyone else affected.”

The watchdog confirmed earlier this week that “no non-police issue firearm has been recovered from the vehicle or the scene” following a detailed search of the area.

Kaba’s family on Wednesday called for a murder investigation as they demanded “answers and accountability” over his death.

In a statement released through the charity Inquest, they said he would still be alive if he had not been Black.

The family read: “We have today told the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) of that demand and that we do not want any delay as has happened in other fatal shootings – otherwise

we and the wider public can have no confidence that the police will be held to account.

“We are devastated; we need answers and we need accountability. We are worried that if Chris had not been Black, he would have been arrested on Monday evening and not had his life cut short.”

Kaba, who was due to become a father, was a rapper known as Madix or Mad Itch and was part of the Mobo-nominated drill group 67.

Kaba’s car and police vehicles involved in the pursuit are undergoing a detailed forensic examination at a secure location.

Amanda Pearson, assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said: “The Met is cooperating fully as the IOPC work to independently establish the full circumstances surrounding the shooting.

“The officer is not currently on operational duties due to the formal post-incident process. A senior officer will now carefully consider their work status going forward.

“I absolutely understand that this shooting is a matter of grave concern, particularly for our Black communities.

“I also know what a difficult and often dangerous job firearms officers in particular do every day to try to protect the public. They understand and expect that on the very rare occasions they discharge their weapons they will face intense scrutiny. I don’t underestimate the impact on them of this development. I’d urge the public to allow the IOPC the time and space needed to progress the investigation.”

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# Climate crisis ‘could trigger irreversible tipping points’



Five of the 16 known tipping points may be triggered even at today's temperatures, scientists say (AP)

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**VISHWAM SANKARAN**

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The Earth's current warming rate due to greenhouse gas emissions could lead to the planet crossing several "irreversible" climate tipping points by the 2030s, a new study warned.

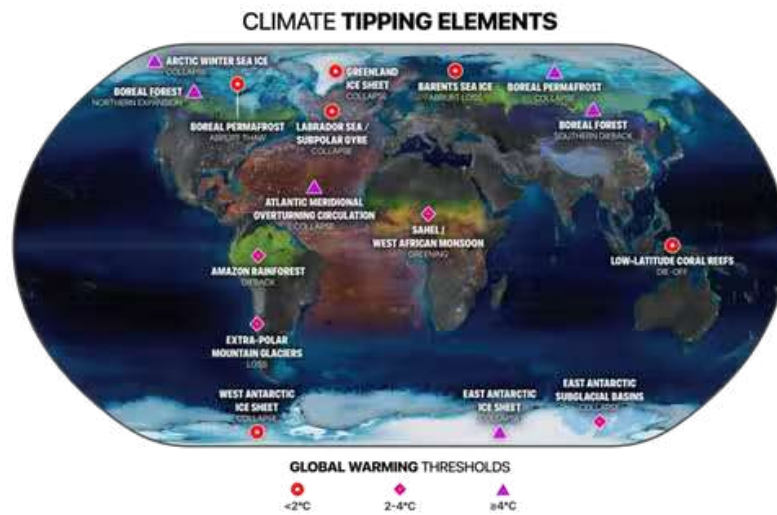
The research, published yesterday in the journal *Science*, calls for this rise to be halted "as much as possible" as risks of irreversible



damage to the planet increase with each tenth of a degree of further warming. “Our new work provides compelling evidence that the world must radically accelerate decarbonising the economy to limit the risk of crossing climate tipping points,” Tim Lenton, director of the Global Systems Institute at the University of Exeter, said in a statement. Climate tipping points, researchers say, are threshold conditions, which if hit, will cause damage to the environment that is irreversible.

Scientists conducted a comprehensive review of over 200 papers published since 2008, and developed an updated assessment of the most important climate tipping points, including temperature thresholds, time scales and impacts. These include the Greenland and west Antarctic ice sheets, widespread abrupt permafrost thaw, and massive die-off of tropical coral reefs. The research found that 16 major systems involved in regulating the planet’s climate – so-called “tipping elements” – “have the potential” to cross tipping points where their changes can become self-sustaining and likely irreversible.

It suggested that even if the global temperature stopped rising, once the ice sheet, ocean, or rainforest passed a tipping point, it would carry on changing to a new state. Five of the 16 known tipping points may be triggered even at today’s temperatures, scientists say.



Greenhouse emissions must be cut in half by 2030, study authors say (Gloabaia/PIK/SRC/Exeter University)

They say four of these move from “possible events” to “likely” at a global warming scenario of 1.5C above pre-industrial levels and five more become possible around this level of heating. “We can see signs of destabilisation already in parts of the west Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets, in permafrost regions, the Amazon rainforest, and potentially the Atlantic overturning circulation as well,” study lead author David Armstrong McKay from the University of Exeter said. “The world is already at risk of some tipping points. As global temperatures rise further, more tipping points become possible.”

Limiting warming to well below 2C and preferably 1.5C is not enough to fully avoid dangerous climate change, scientists warn. However, they say the chance of crossing tipping points can be reduced significantly by rapidly cutting greenhouse gas emissions, starting immediately. The study estimates that global greenhouse gas emissions must be cut by half by 2030, reaching net-zero by 2050, in order to have a 50 per cent chance of achieving 1.5C and thus limiting tipping point risks.

“The world is heading towards 2-3C of global warming. This sets Earth on course to cross multiple dangerous tipping points that will be disastrous for people across the world,” Johan Rockström, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said. “To maintain liveable conditions on Earth, protect people from rising extremes, and enable stable societies, we must do everything possible to prevent crossing tipping points. Every tenth of a degree counts,” Dr Rockström added.

Scientists warn that crossing these limits may generate cascading effects that increase the likelihood of crossing other such tipping points.

“Currently the world is heading toward 2 to 3C of global warming; at best, if all net-zero pledges and nationally determined contributions are implemented it could reach just below 2C. This would lower tipping point risks somewhat but would still be dangerous as it could trigger multiple climate tipping points,” they concluded.

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# By Numbers Around the world in 70 years

Countries/states visited by the Queen during her reign



Image Credit: Shutterstock

Sources: The Telegraph, The Royal Household, Statista research



@StatistaCharts



INDEPENDENT

statista 





# Pictures of the Day



## Feeling lucky

Devotees swarm to catch a glimpse of an idol of Ganesh, the Hindu god of prosperity, during a procession on the last day of the 10-day-long Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Mumbai. *Reuters*





### China twirl

Girls play with paper umbrellas before the mid-autumn festival at the Yu Garden in Shanghai. *Reuters*



### Precious cargo

Victims of regional flooding from monsoon rains receive relief aid from the Pakistani army in the Qambar Shahdadkot district of Sindh Province. *AP*



### **Love is a battlefield**

Newlywed serviceman Mikhail kisses his bride Iryna as they dance on an empty stage in a park in central Dnipro, Ukraine.

*Reuters*



### **Eats cake and leaves**

An iced cake is hard to resist on the first birthday of giant panda twins You You (friendship) and Jiu Jiu (lasting) at the Madrid Zoo, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. *EPA*

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# Home news in brief



Accused of a quadruple murder, Joshua Jacques enters his pleas by video-link from Belmarsh prison yesterday (PA)

## **Man admits stabbing four family members to death**

A man has admitted stabbing four members of the same family to death, but denied it was murder. Joshua Jacques has pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Dolet Hill, 64, her partner Denton Burke, 58, their daughter Tanysha Ofori-Akuffo, 45, and granddaughter Samantha Drummonds, 27.

Mr Jacques, 28, attacked three generations at Hill's terraced home in Bermondsey, south London, on 25 April. Police had been called to a disturbance at the property in the early hours of the morning. They found Burke's body at the foot of the stairs and those of the three women in the kitchen. Officers discovered Mr Jacques hiding naked in the upstairs bathroom. He was tasered during his arrest and taken into custody at Brixton police station.

Mr Jacques, from Lewisham, southeast London, was subsequently charged with four counts of murder. Yesterday, Mr Jacques appeared for a plea hearing at the Old Bailey before Judge Richard Marks KC. He denied four charges of murder but admitted manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility. The prosecution indicated the pleas to the lesser offence would not be accepted by the Crown and the case would go to trial. Judge Marks remanded Mr Jacques into custody with a further hearing on 19 December.

### **Lack of hard shoulder contributed to M1 death**

The lack of a hard shoulder on a stretch of smart motorway contributed to the death of a woman after the car she was travelling in broke down and was hit by another vehicle, a coroner has ruled. Nargis Begum, 62, had got out of the passenger seat of a Nissan Qashqai on the M1 in South Yorkshire when a Mercedes car, which appeared to take no avoiding action, collided with the stationary car, causing her fatal injuries.

Yesterday senior coroner Nicola Mundy told Doncaster Coroner's Court the fact none of drivers of the 153 vehicles which passed the stranded car before the collision alerted National Highways to its presence also contributed to Ms Begum's death.

An inquest which lasted four days heard how in September 2018 the Nissan had driven past an emergency refuge by about 250 yards and was stranded on the live lane one undetected for 16 minutes and 21 seconds before the fatal crash.

Campaigner Claire Mercer, whose husband Jason Mercer also died after stopping on a smart motorway in South Yorkshire, said: “She [the coroner] concluded that a lack of a hard shoulder contributed to the death. There’s not really much else to say. If there had been a hard shoulder, Nargis Begum would not be dead.” AA president Edmund King said: “The conclusion that the absence of a hard shoulder and the absence of any drivers telling National Highways about the stationary vehicle both contributed to Mrs Begum’s death surely calls into question the whole concept of ‘smart’ motorways.”

### **Man arrested over 1996 IRA Manchester bombing**

A man has been arrested in connection with an IRA bombing that injured more than 200 people in Manchester. The attack on 15 June 1996 struck Corporation Street in the heart of the city, and a telephone warning caused at least 75,000 people to be evacuated from the area before the lorry bomb was detonated. Greater Manchester Police said a man was arrested on Thursday night at Birmingham Airport on suspicion of terror offences, and is being questioned by counter-terror police in custody.

The bomb was the second largest to have exploded on mainland Britain during the IRA’s campaign, weighing 3,300lb. Local television stations received a telephone warning using a recognised IRA codeword at 10am and the bomb detonated an hour and 20 minutes later.

### **Royal College of Nurses pauses strike ballot**

The Royal College of Nurses has paused plans to ballot members over strike action next week in light of the Queen’s death, *The Independent* has learned. In an email to members today the RCN, which represents 465,000 members, said: “Out of respect, the NHS pay ballot due to open next week will be delayed and campaigning should pause until further notice.”

Nurses, midwives, healthcare assistances and nursing students were due to be balloted on the 15 September over whether they



want to take industrial action over pay. The action was launched after the government did not meet the RCN's demands for a pay rise which was 5 per cent above inflation. In order for strike action to go ahead, 54 per cent of members would have to vote for it.

### **Man arrested on suspicion of double murder**

A man has been arrested by police investigating the deaths of a mother and daughter who were found dead at a home near Sudbury in Suffolk. Police said the 44-year-old woman and 12-year-old girl were found at a house in the Heath Estate, in the village of Great Waldingfield, on Thursday morning after the force received reports of concerns for safety for the occupants.

A 46-year-old man was also found with serious injuries and taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital by air ambulance. He was arrested and remains in hospital where his condition is described as critical but stable. A post-mortem examination yesterday found the cause of death of the woman was pressure on the neck. A post-mortem examination for the girl is expected to take place next week. Suffolk Police said the three individuals were known to each other and described the incident as "contained", with no wider threat to the community.

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# ‘We found weak spot where the enemy wasn’t ready’

Ukraine says it has ‘liberated’ vast swathes of land from Russian troops in rapid counteroffensive hailed by the US



A Ukrainian serviceman taking part in the counteroffensive in Donetsk region (Reuters)

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**DAVID HARDING**

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Ukrainian troops were charging through an expanding area of previously Russian-held territory in the east yesterday, making significant territorial gains in a surprise breakthrough that could mark a major turning point in the war.

Kyiv claimed it had retaken more than 1,000 sq km (385 sq miles) of territory in its south and east from Russia in the last week.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said the area had been “liberated” as part of a counteroffensive.

The loss of territory, around Ukraine’s second largest city Kharkiv, was even acknowledged by pro-Russian forces.

“The very fact of a breach of our defences is already a substantial victory for the Ukrainian armed forces,” the head of the Moscow-installed administration for occupied areas in Kharkiv province, Vitaly Ganchev, said on Russian state TV.

Mr Ganchev later said his administration was trying to evacuate civilians from cities including Iziium, Russia’s main stronghold and logistics base in the province near the eastern front.

The Russian defence ministry released video of military vehicles speeding along a highway, saying they showed reinforcements rushing to defend the area. The Kremlin declined to comment on the Ukrainian advance.

“The initial signs are positive and we see Ukraine making real, demonstrable progress in a deliberate way,” Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, said in Brussels the day after visiting Kyiv.

“But this is likely to go on for some significant period of time,” he added. “There are a huge number of Russian forces in Ukraine and unfortunately, tragically, horrifically, President [Vladimir] Putin has demonstrated that he will throw a lot of people into this at huge cost to Russia.”



Locals walk past an administrative building destroyed in a rocket attack in Kharkiv on Wednesday (EPA)

Ukrainian officials released a parade of videos showing soldiers raising flags and posing in front of street signs in villages and towns across a swathe of previously Russian-held territory.

One viral image showed troops holding up a Ukrainian flag at a highway welcome sign for Kupiansk, previously more than 50km inside Russia's front line. The city is a vital strategic target as the junction of several of the main railway lines supplying Russian troops at the front.

Western military analysts say the advance could shut the supply lines Moscow has relied on to sustain its force in eastern Ukraine, and potentially leave thousands of Russian troops encircled.

Such rapid advances have largely been unheard of since Russia abandoned its assault on Kyiv in March, shifting the war mainly into a relentless grind along entrenched front lines.

The Ukrainian general staff said that "thanks to skilful and coordinated actions, the Armed Forces of Ukraine, with the support of the local population, advanced almost 50km in three days".

The surprise Ukrainian breakthrough in the east came a week after Kyiv announced the start of a long-awaited counteroffensive in Kherson province in the south.

Ukrainian officials say Russia moved thousands of troops south to respond to the Kherson advance, leaving other parts of the front line exposed and creating the opportunity for the lightning assault.

“We found a weak spot where the enemy wasn’t ready,” presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych said.

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# Kim: North Korea will use pre-emptive nuclear strikes



‘We will never give up our rights to self-defence,’ says Kim Jong-un (KCNA/KNS)

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**STUTI MISHRA**

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Kim Jong-un has said North Korea will never abandon their nuclear weapons even if his country was sanctioned for “100 years”.

He was speaking in parliament as a law was passed allowing Pyongyang to use pre-emptive nuclear strikes in order to protect itself, a move likely to spark further tensions in the region.



The law spells out conditions whereby North Korea could use nuclear weapons, including when it determines its leadership is facing an imminent “nuclear or non-nuclear attack by hostile forces”.

“The utmost significance of legislating nuclear weapons policy is to draw an irretrievable line so that there can be no bargaining over our nuclear weapons,” he said.

“Let them sanction us for 100 days, 1,000 days, 10 years or 100 years. We will never give up our rights to self-defence that preserves our country’s existence and the safety of our people just to temporarily ease the difficulties we are experiencing now.”

The law requires North Korea’s military to “automatically” execute nuclear strikes against enemy forces, including their “starting point of provocation and the command”, if Pyongyang’s leadership comes under attack.

Announcing the new law, Mr Kim said it makes its nuclear status “irreversible” and bars any denuclearisation talks. He criticised South Korea over its plans to expand its conventional strike capabilities and revive large-scale military exercises with the US, describing them as “dangerous”.

“The purpose of the United States is not only to remove our nuclear might itself but eventually forcing us to surrender or weaken our rights to self-defence through giving up our nukes, so that they could collapse our government at any time.”

The move comes as observers say the North appears to be preparing to resume nuclear testing for the first time since 2017, after historic summits with the then US president Donald Trump and other world leaders in 2018 failed to persuade Pyongyang to abandon its weapons development.

Analysts say Mr Kim’s goal is to win international acceptance of North Korea’s status as a “responsible nuclear state”.

The US and South Korea have offered to talk to Mr Kim, an offer Pyongyang has rebuffed so far.

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# UN ‘closed the door’ with Uyghurs report, says China



The UN published its report on human rights abuses in the Xinjiang province despite pressure from Xi Jinping's administration (AP)

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**SRAVASTI DASGUPTA**

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China has said that the United Nations (UN) has closed its “doors of cooperation” with Beijing after the publication of a report earlier this month on the alleged human rights abuses in the country’s Xinjiang province. Chen Xu, China’s ambassador to the UN, lashed out at the global body and said in Geneva

yesterday: “The office closed the door of cooperation by releasing the so-called assessment.”

The long-awaited report was published on 31 August despite pressure from Beijing and sought “urgent attention” from the world community to rights violations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The 48-page report stated that serious human rights violations have been committed against Uyghurs in the name of the “government’s application of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism strategies”.

“The extent of arbitrary and discriminatory detention of members of Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim groups ... may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity,” the report said. Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian had termed the report a “farce”.

“We firmly oppose the release of the so-called Xinjiang-related report by the UN Human Rights Office. This report is a farce orchestrated by the US and a small number of western powers,” he said. The report was released at the end of the four-year term of UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet who had said that she had been under pressure from both rights activists in the world community and the UN to publish or not to publish the report.

Last week the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that the assessment in Xinjiang was orchestrated by the West. “The so-called assessment you mentioned is orchestrated and produced by the US and some Western forces,” and is “a political tool” meant to contain China, he said. While China has rejected human rights abuses against the Uyghur Muslims, the UN report is expected to be discussed in the human rights council next week.

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# US removes racist term ‘squaw’ from place names



Squaw Mountain, Colorado has been renamed (The Denver Post, MediaNews Group)

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**GINO SPOCCHIA**

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Creeks, towns and mountain passes are among the 650 places across the United States that have removed “Squaw”, a derogatory term for Native American woman, from their names.

On Thursday, the US government said all 650 place names had been approved by the Board on Geographic Names (BGN),

paving the way for hundreds of geographical features and communities to remove the word.

“Together, we’re showing why representation matters and charting a path for an inclusive America,” interior secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement. “The Board on Geographic Names took an important step today to replace racist and derogatory names that have graced federal locations for far too long.”

Among the places with a new name are Colorado’s Mestaa’èhehe Pass near Mestaa’èhehe Mountain, about 30 miles west of Denver, as the Associated Press reported of the BGN list.

The new name honours an Owl Woman, an influential translator who aided communications between Native Americans and white traders and soldiers in what is now southern Colorado, the news agency added.

In Utah, 50 places will have new names including Squaw Mountain/Peak, which KSL.com reported on Thursday will be renamed Kyhv Peak.

The changes are the result of a nearly year-long process set in motion by Ms Haaland, the United States’s first Native American cabinet secretary, last year.

“I feel a deep obligation to use my platform to ensure that our public lands and waters are accessible and welcoming,” she said in her statement on Thursday. “I am grateful to the members of the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force and the Board on Geographic Names for their efforts to prioritise this important work.”

The BGN, which approved the new names, had been ordered by the US government to remove the offensive term from all geographical features following earlier commitments from individual states and even ski resorts such as California’s Palisades Tahoe, which hosted the 1960 Winter Olympics.

“Federal lands should be welcoming spaces for all citizens,” said Matthew Campbell, the deputy director of The Native American Rights Fund in a statement to the Associated Press. “It is well



past time for derogatory names to be removed and tribes to be included in the conversation.”

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# World news in brief



Locals in Bajara Sehwan yesterday, Sindh province, on the move to higher ground with animal feed (EPA)

## UN calls for more international aid for Pakistan

The UN secretary general Antonio Guterres yesterday called for richer countries to do more for Pakistan as has said the world owes the country “massive” help because other nations have contributed more to the climate change thought to have triggered the flooding. “Pakistan has not contributed in a meaningful way to climate change, the level of emissions in this

country is relatively low. We have waged war on nature and nature is tracking back and striking back in a devastating way. Today in Pakistan, tomorrow in any of your countries,” he said during a meeting in Islamabad.

Months of monsoons and flooding have killed 1,391 people and affected 3.3 million in the nation. Half a million people there have become homeless. Planeloads of aid from the US, the United Arab Emirates and other countries have begun arriving. But there is more to be done, Mr Guterres said.

Yesterday, the first planeload of aid arrived from the US, which Washington says is part of an upcoming \$30m (£26m) dollars in assistance. More US military planes are expected to arrive in the coming days as part of a humanitarian bridge set up by Washington to deliver much-needed aid across the country. USAID announced an additional \$20m (£17m) yesterday in humanitarian assistance for Pakistan, further enhancing US pledges. Mr Guterres directed his words to the “international community”, saying that by some estimates Pakistan needs about £25bn to recover. *AP*

### **EU aims to ban products made with forced labour**

Products made with forced labour or those imported into the 27-country European Union will be banned under draft rules, according to an EU document seen by Reuters, a move driven by EU lawmakers concerned about human rights in the Chinese province of Xinjiang. The EU executive, which will announce its proposal on Tuesday, will need to thrash out details with lawmakers and EU countries before the rules can become law.

“Such prohibition should apply to products for which forced labour has been used at any stage of their production, manufacture, harvest and extraction, including working or processing related to the products,” the document said.

The US enacted a law last year, the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act (UFLPA), to safeguard its market from products potentially tainted by human rights abuses in Xinjiang, where

the US government says China is committing genocide against Uyghur Muslims. China denies abuses in Xinjiang, a major cotton producer that also supplies much of the world's materials for solar panels, and says the law "slanders" the country's human rights situation. *Reuters*

### **New York declares state of emergency over polio**

New York officials have declared a state of emergency over polio as the virus was detected in wastewater samples in another county – just two months after the state confirmed the first case on US soil in close to a decade. Governor Kathy Hochul announced yesterday that she had issued a month-long disaster declaration for the state in an attempt to bolster vaccination rates against the virus.

The move came just hours after officials in Nassau County confirmed that they had detected positive traces of the poliovirus in its sewage samples. This is now the fourth county where the paralysing virus has been found, joining Rockland, Orange and Sullivan counties as well as New York City – and bolstering concerns that it is spreading across the Empire State.

### **Colombia, Venezuela border to reopen to cargo traffic**

The presidents of Colombia and Venezuela yesterday announced that the years-long closure of their countries' shared border to cargo transport will end on 26 September. Air service between their capitals will also resume. The announcement comes a month after Gustavo Petro was sworn in as Colombia's first leftist president, beginning a thaw in relations between his country and the government of Nicolas Maduro. The presidents tweeted the announcement. "We confirm the government's commitment to restore brotherly relations," Mr Petro said.

The border crossing bridges are currently open to pedestrian traffic. Limited cargo transport is allowed only at one bridge in the northern portion of the countries' shared 2,200km border (1,370 miles). Mr Maduro tweeted that Bogota and the

Venezuelan cities of Caracas and Valencia will be connected again via air traffic. “The exchange and cooperation between our peoples are starting off on the right foot.” *AP*

### **Fifteen killed in eastern Congo attack**

Suspected militiamen killed at least 15 people and burned hundreds of houses during an attack on a market in a town in eastern Congo, local officials and a resident said yesterday. The raid, near the town of Djugu, is the latest in a string of violent attacks in the eastern Ituri province, where rival groups fight over land and resources. The death toll was confirmed by local chief Richard Venna and by a local civil society member.

The attackers were likely from the Codeco militia, whose ranks are drawn mainly from the ethnic Lendu farming community, which carries out regular attacks on Hema herders in the eastern Iruri province, Mr Venna said. *Reuters*

### **Four detained after Germany's largest ever heroin seizure**

Four people were detained after police made their largest ever seizure of heroin in Germany, prosecutors said yesterday, with police confiscating some 700kg (1,543 pounds) as part of an operation against a gang smuggling narcotics from Iran. The drugs were seized in the port city of Hamburg at the end of August. The detentions were made overnight on Thursday, when police searched 10 premises in the eastern cities of Dresden and Chemnitz, in Hamburg and in the Netherlands.

The detained were an unnamed 40-year-old Turkish-Serbian suspected ringleader, a 35-year-old Iranian in the Netherlands, a 54-year-old German suspected of using his firm's logistics fleet to transport drugs, and a 53-year-old Turkish go-between.

*Reuters*

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# Travelling into 2023: top holiday tips with Simon Calder and Helen Coffey

Discussing the best holiday options for the rest of 2022 and beyond

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*I have surprised myself by how upset I am. Anyone else?*



If you do look on at the crowds leaving flowers for someone they didn't know, leave them to it (Getty)

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## SEAN O'GRADY

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For quite a long time I was dreading the death of the Queen. This was for two reasons – neither especially honourable.

First, as a journalist, there was the inevitable amount of work it would entail. Writing about royalty is a harder gig than most in

the trade because Buckingham Palace says so little and you don't know what bits that seep out of the family and the staff you can believe: witness the way that Nicholas Witchell and Huw Edwards spent about five hours talking about a six-word statement from the palace about the Queen being "under medical supervision" and "comfortable". You end up discussing *why* you don't know what's going on.

Witness, too, the sheer volume of "content". An awful lot of the features and commentary that are out there now – and very fine, insightful and inspiring it is – obviously had to be planned and pre-written, and indeed periodically revised as the Queen carried on. Obituaries written in 1980 or 2000 weren't much use. But there are also pieces that have to be written "in the moment", under pressure.

Second, I wasn't sure I could take the national outpouring of grief, which I fully expected to exceed the scale of the collective mourning after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. This may yet happen, though there seems a more sedate air about things this time round. People, I assumed, would go mad.

What I wasn't expecting is how upset *I'd* get. Tears! I kept telling myself that this was ridiculous, that it was completely bonkers. I beat myself up. In my internal dialogue, I reminded myself in brutal terms that I'd never met the Queen, that the nearest I'd ever come to her was being about a hundred yards away at a crowded Buckingham Palace garden party, and that all I'd seen was the top of a primrose-yellow hat (which is why she wore those bright colours, I believe). That was it.

I reiterated that she'd had an excellent innings, a life lived to the full, and we all have to go some time. She was a nice old lady – a typical countrywoman, by all accounts – but (I self-emphasised) Her Majesty had very little in common with most of us. For some folk, she was a symbol of privilege and a feudal hangover. Stop it, Sean, I said. Pull yourself together.

None of it worked, and I'm still a bit triggered – much more so than when Diana went, which was clearly not expected, and she was about my age. The Queen, though? I now see why there is



some comfort in this national, common shared experience of mourning. It's not rational, but I suppose it doesn't have to be. The Queen was fond of saying that "grief is the price we pay for love" – but if you don't know someone, how can that be?

**I've stopped telling myself off because I can see that it's just a way of coping with the renewed pain of the loss of someone close (actually close)**



There's an interesting Twitter thread and TikTok video by Dr Hannah Barham-Brown, a grief expert, that explains how something like this can prove triggering. It could press a personal grief "button" when you least expect it. Her idea is that personal grief is a rubber ball bouncing around in a box: the box is your life and at the top of the box is a red button. When your bereavement is fresh, the ball is very big and so hits the button all the time, triggering pain. Over time, the ball gets smaller and hit the button less often – but when it does, the pain is just as intense. This makes sense.

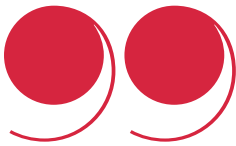
She tweeted: "Starting to see tweets from people who are finding themselves surprised at their own emotional response to the news today. You may be one of them. Please don't panic – we'll be seeing more and more of this in coming days and weeks, and it's to be expected."

Indeed it is. There's nothing to be embarrassed about. I've stopped telling myself off because I can see that it's just a way of coping with the renewed pain of the loss of someone close (actually close). Some will be triggered, others not.

To my mind, you need a kind of tolerance about grief, and that also works the other way – there's no need to criticise or get upset about people who don't much care about the Queen's passing.

I'd even say the same about those who "celebrate" it, on political grounds, because they feel a shared hurt from British imperialism and all the cruelty it carried with it. For them, a trigger was pulled as well when the news came through. I think they're misguided, but that's their right.

So, if you do look on at the crowds leaving flowers for someone they didn't know, or wailing, or praying to a god they might not believe in because of the death of a stranger, leave them to it. I don't feel the urge to do that, personally, but if it helps you deal with news of the Queen's passing, then it's fine. Each to their own.



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*Even if the writing is on the wall, the final dash to see a loved one never gets easier*



Many of us have experienced the race against the clock – the royals are no different (Getty)

**EMMA CLARKE**



We now know that after a historic 70-year reign, Queen Elizabeth II died yesterday afternoon at Balmoral castle in Aberdeenshire, Scotland – the place she was once said to be “never happier” than when



visiting. But earlier that day, after the news broke that the monarch was “under medical supervision”, all eyes turned to one thing: her family.

Both Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall were said to be travelling up to Scotland. So too, Prince Andrew and the Princess Royal. Prince William also made the journey, with Prince Harry said to be on his way with Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, before it was confirmed that she would stay in London. Much attention on social media was paid to how long it was taking Harry to get there and when exactly he might arrive.

For me, seeing this play out in the newsroom yesterday, I could think of only one thing: “The call.”

“The call” comes in two forms when you have a loved one who is seriously ill: they’re either on their way out, or they’ve sadly passed on. Neither is remotely pleasant to receive. Your stomach acid rises, the blood drains from your face and a lump forms in your throat. Tears silently stream down your cheeks.

Even if the writing was on the wall, there is still no way to prepare for such news – it is virtually impossible to gear yourself up to withstand such monumental loss. Frantically, you pull together a few personal items, forgetting essentials like your toothbrush or your keys, as you scrabble out the door and research the quickest route to their bedside with shaking hands. The whole time, your mind tries to figure out how you will adjust; how you could possibly live without them.

Many of us have experienced that unparalleled sensation, the race against the clock, your body going into autopilot – and if you haven’t, you’re one of the lucky ones.

Even if it is too late to have that final moment with someone you love, the sense of urgency doesn’t falter. You nervously tap your fingers, look out of the train window and hope the stranger next to you hasn’t noticed you’re sobbing, as sad melodies bleed out of your headphones. Nothing in the world could be more important than making that trip.

**There's something to be said about that journey – that sacred pilgrimage to honour the dead. Even though there is nothing left to do (or perhaps because there is nothing left to do) you still feel a duty to carry out one last honourable act**



As her family members, coming from all directions, sprinted to Balmoral – watched by millions of us glued to our TV screens – it conjured up images and feelings of my own losses from over the years. My first encounter was as a teenager, holding my grandfather's hand as he slipped away. Years later, as I sat on the sofa half-watching TV with my sister, my phone vibrated and I knew it was the hospital telling me my dad was gone. Then, during the pandemic, I rushed to get back home to see my auntie, even though I knew I wouldn't be able to enter the ward.

There's something to be said about that journey – that sacred pilgrimage to honour the dead. Even though there is nothing left to do (or perhaps *because* there is nothing left to do) you still clutch at what propels you forward. You feel a duty to carry out one last honourable act.

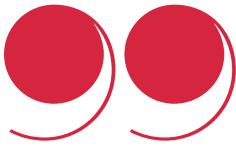
Royalist or not, love and death unites us all. The raw human emotion laid bare; the excruciating pain of knowing nothing will ever be the same. While it is unlikely the public will be privy to such moments – one cannot help but think of young William and Harry trailing behind the coffin of their late mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, unable to demonstrate their hurt – we can be sure of what is happening behind the scenes: grieving. It is always raw and always personal.

Just like us, they will be mourning. Just like us, they will be thinking about the next steps and will be facing the colossal wave of admin that comes with death. If anything, they – especially King Charles III – face the enormity of stepping up

for the nation; of filling the Queen's shoes and providing consistency for the British public at a time of great upheaval.

Most of all, they will, like any of us, no doubt be reflecting on their relationship with the late Queen – their mother, their grandmother, their great-grandmother – and may well experience all the usual emotions associated with grief: sadness, love, respect, regret for not spending more time together. It is a deeply private grief played out on the public stage.

Differences aside, there is one thing that can connect us to the royal family at this time: empathy.



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# *The ascent of Ma'am: I grew old alongside the Queen*



When Elizabeth got married in 1947 I developed a crush (STF/AFP/Getty)

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**JOAN BAKEWELL**

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I shadowed the Queen all my life. I was seven years behind her, with nothing in common but that of being a woman going through the different human ages. We aged in parallel, if not in unison.

I first saw royalty when King George and Princess Elizabeth drove through Hazel Grove, the area of Stockport where I grew up, on their triumphal post-war tour. They both had bright orange faces, and I was shocked that a man, even a King, should wear make-up. Elizabeth and her sister Margaret were icons for growing little girls. They had pretty frocks and dogs and ponies. We of course didn't. Envy loomed.

When Elizabeth got married in 1947 I developed a crush. I cut out all the blurry black-and-white newsprint pictures of her wedding dress and read all about the (to us) lavish celebrations.

By the time I went to Cambridge in the early 1950s I had gone off the monarchy altogether. What was the point? Didn't they cost money and live in idleness? But the King's death and Elizabeth's accession was proclaimed by heralds on the Senate House steps, and we all flocked to see that. After all, it was history. But when eager reporters besieged Cambridge looking for what they called "the new Elizabethans", we pooh-poohed the idea.

The coronation came a year later, in 1953. I boycotted it. That is to say, I had better things to do than join a crowded common room in Newnham College craning my neck to see a small black-and-white television screen. Nonetheless, I rejoiced that we had a woman as monarch and went out for a drink at The Eagle in celebration.

**I cut out all the blurry black-and-white newsprint pictures of her wedding dress and read all about the (to us) lavish celebrations**



From then on, the Queen was simply there. It is impossible to exaggerate how totally glamorous she was in post-war Britain. A tiny waist, lavish swirling skirts. She had poise too. Her voice

sounded distant, formal, stilted. But it was the Queen's English. Why else had I been sent to elocutions lessons if not to sound a little like her?

Down the years she was utterly consistent, upright, dutiful. Her Christmas Day broadcast ceased to be the not-to-miss occasion it once was, but she remained the star performer, instinctively knowing that the woman she was merged imperceptibly into the figurehead. There was no separating the one from the other.

When out and about on duty we never saw her sneeze, blow her nose, scratch an itch, ease a tight shoe, adjust her dress, drop a handkerchief, stroke her hair. She could stand for hours taking a salute without flinching or fidgeting. She seemed always to move at the same pace, and the world moved round her at the speed she set.

Through the decades she resisted fashion trends and high style. Her most daring concession was a skirt above the knee some time in the 1960s. The press and other women noticed immediately. From then on she was traditional without being frumpy, classic without being routine. Her interactions with people were consistently low-key – a modest acknowledgement, with no trace of familiarity. She began to smile more as she grew older.

I saw her in the House of Lords giving the speech from the throne at the opening of parliament. She never fluffed her lines or moved an inch out of position. She bore her weighty crown and long elaborate robes with a seeming ease. It was a feat even more impressive as she got older and must have been longing to put her feet up with her dogs and the racing papers. It was an immaculate performance.

*Baroness Bakewell is a broadcaster, writer and Labour peer*



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# *Hollywood drama is nothing but a storm in a teacup now*

Why do we all care so much about in-house fighting? It's never seemed less important, writes **Charlotte Cripps**



The promotion for Olivia Wilde's film 'Don't Worry Darling' has become a media circus (Getty)



What a difference a few days make. This time on Wednesday, I was writing with a view to the Venice Film Festival. Now, we are mourning the loss of the Queen. It has never made Hollywood drama seem less important.

While our critic was attending screenings, filing reviews, and doing interviews, we on the culture desk were churning out news stories about the unfolding drama of what's going on with the cast and crew of Olivia Wilde's new film, *Don't Worry Darling*. It had begun to feel never-ending.

On Monday, its lead star Florence Pugh was notably absent from the film's press conference at the festival. Questions abounded: was it really about a conflicting work commitment? Why then is she pictured sipping a cocktail in Venice? Is it sure proof that Wilde and Pugh had a fall-out?

When Pugh turned up later that evening on the red carpet for the premiere, she and Wilde didn't appear to even look at each other, which seemed to confirm all is not well. Neither of them has denied the rumours – so it's all speculation.

One of the reasons Pugh and Wilde reportedly clashed is over the director Wilde's blossoming relationship with co-star Harry Styles on set. Then to top it all, Styles allegedly spat at the film's lead Chris Pine at the premiere. Sources close to Styles told *The Independent* that the spitting claims weren't true.

All of this has turned Wilde's film promotion into a media circus. After the screening, as the cast and crew stood to receive a standing ovation, Pugh gave her co-star Nick Knoll a kiss and seemed to make a quick dash out of the cinema.

What is going on? Why do we all care so much about in-house fighting? It's like an episode of *EastEnders*, that's why. It takes us away from our own lives, especially at times of great collective sadness.

The media obsession with Wilde's film has overshadowed the film itself – and everything else at Venice. There have been some great films so far including *Black Swan* director Darren Aronofsky's psychological drama *The Whale*, Timothee Chalamet's cannibal romance *Bones and All*, Cate Blanchett's *Tar*, and *The Banshees of Inisherin* starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson. It received a 13-minute standing ovation.

*Don't Worry Darling* got poor reviews – *The Independent* gave it three stars. But it's the talk of the town. It's still all a mystery as to what the exact issues are between the cast and crew. But one thing is clear: by the sounds of it, they obviously have a lot to worry about.

Yours,

Charlotte Cripps

Culture writer



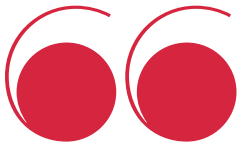
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# *A new monarch will usher in the change Britain needs*



Nothing and no one can go on forever, and change is inevitable and necessary.

Queen Elizabeth II was known the world over, but not without justifiable criticism regarding her enormous wealth and privilege and that of the monarchy in general. Britons who are not blinded by the awe of royalty have often complained about her net worth of at least £550m, who spent her non-constitutional time trading horses, while many in the UK struggle to make ends meet.

Many people in Britain believe that charity, as pious as it is, is not the answer to social problems and the inequality that lies at the heart of it. More believe the rich and powerful are the very cause of the world's injustices and exercise a hypocritical context in highlighting injustices, while having extremely privileged and pampered lives of the elite.

However, when Queen Elizabeth came to Ireland on an official state visit in 2011 she made a very valuable statement which said "we should not be bound by the past". It will also be interesting to see if the massive change which is now taking place in the monarchy and government can change the fortunes of Northern Ireland and its continued deadlock and political strife.

Undoubtedly, her legacy will be perpetuated by her son, King Charles III, so nothing will be lost in what is a very sad and difficult time for the United Kingdom. But it's also a very exciting time and new chapter which hopefully will bring a lot of good for everybody.

**Maurice Fitzgerald** *County Cork*

## **The story of a lifetime**

We are saddened by the loss of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. She was one of the towering figures of the 21st century, whose integrity, kindness, etiquette, elegance, eloquence, humbleness, confidence, gallantry, grace and grit captivated millions worldwide.

She witnessed history: from the Cold War to the fall of the Iron Curtain, the end of Communism, the Falkland and Iraq wars, the discovery of the internet, Brexit and the recent confrontation between the west and Russia – all while standing tall.

In summary, her legacy is one that will never be forgotten.

**Munjed Farid Al Qutob** *London*

## **Nothing else on TV?**

I'm neither a royalist nor a republican. I also feel the queen is worthy of respect.

But, why is it necessary or desirable for the BBC to force all their license payers to watch “identical royal programmes” all evening? Don't those who are not ardent royal followers have the right to tune into something other than coverage of the Queen's death?

**Amanda Scott** *Address not provided*

## **Authentic representation**

While I have no personal experience of autism and I am hardly an expert on its authentic representation, I have just watched *Extraordinary Attorney Woo* on Netflix, which follows a young



lawyer with Asperger's. It deserves, I think, to be seen more widely.

**Joanna Pallister** *Address not provided*

## A birthday to remember

Thursday evening, my youngest son took me to see Tim Peake at Leicester's De Montfort Hall. Sadly, this birthday treat will be remembered not for Tim's riveting recollection of his journey to space, but because it was the day we lost our beloved Queen.

It was – and still is – difficult to believe that the modern Elizabethan era has come to an end. On the day Queen Elizabeth was born in 1926, biplanes were taken to the skies, and on the last day of her life, the Nasa Artemis project is preparing to put astronauts back on the moon and ultimately onwards to Mars.

I hope there is a “rocket man” taking the Queen to be reunited with her beloved Prince Phillip.

**Gary Freestone** *Leicester*



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# Bank puts back interest rate decision after Queen death



Decision-makers are expected to hike rates again when the meeting finally takes place (Getty/iStock)

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**AUGUST GRAHAM**

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A widely expected rise in interest rates has been put on hold due to the death of the Queen, the Bank of England has said.

The Bank said that decision-makers on its Monetary Policy Committee would not meet as scheduled next week.

Instead the meeting, at which committee members were expected to hike rates again, will take place the following week, the Bank said

“In light of the period of national mourning now being observed in the United Kingdom, the September 2022 meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee has been postponed for a period of one week,” it said.

The new rates decision will instead be announced on 22 September.

It follows decisions by several public bodies to change their plans for the coming week.

The Office for National Statistics cancelled the publication of all data on Friday, while the Met Office has said it will only be posting daily forecasts and warnings during the 10-day mourning period.

The Bank had widely been expected to hike rates at the next meeting, the latest in a series of increases.

Analysts at Deutsche Bank had said that rates were likely to increase by 0.5 percentage points to 2.25 per cent – its highest since December 2008.

Others at BNP Paribas said that “there are arguably compelling reasons to up the ante” and raise rates to 2.5 per cent at the next meeting.

They said that while energy bills may have been capped, broader inflation still remains high for households and businesses alike.

“Although the first-order impact of ‘Trussonomics’ will be to lower inflation over the next 12 months, the sheer scale of stimulus is likely to add to inflation in the medium term, pointing to a higher terminal rate than the MPC had previously embedded,” BNP Paribas said.

The analysts added: “The MPC might feel a sense of political pressure too. While Truss and new chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng

have re-affirmed the MPC's independence, a review of its mandate – to which governor Andrew Bailey was open – looks likely sooner rather than later.

“To be clear, we do not think the MPC will be unduly influenced by politics, but with inflation so high to begin with, the optics of under-delivery are different against the current backdrop.”

*PA*

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# Fraud can't be stamped out if no one takes it seriously



Prosecution rates are extremely low – no wonder banks are having to shell out billions (iStock)

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**CHRIS BLACKHURST**

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At this year's annual Cambridge fraud conference there was a record turnout.

Some 2,000 delegates from around the world attended the seven-day gathering devoted to discussing new twists and

glitches in financial crookery. Now in its 39th year, the International Symposium on Economic Crime, to use its proper title, has become a fixture in the calendar for senior investigators, police officers and law enforcers.

I first started years ago, when it was just 30 or so people in a room over the old Jesus College Bar. Now, it's housed, still in Jesus, but across marquees, halls and lecture theatres. Where once those attending could all stay in rooms at Jesus, the organisers have to book accommodation in neighbouring colleges.

In all, this year, there were 15 main sessions and 64 workshops. Rather eerily, when news broke of the Queen's passing, speakers were addressing the question of "What have we achieved in promoting integrity during the 70 years of HM Queen Elizabeth's reign?" (It was scheduled to mark her platinum jubilee).

On a more practical level, experts covered topics such as crypto, terrorist financing, money laundering, whistleblowing, seizure of assets and human trafficking.

Yet, despite the enthusiasm, there was an underlying nag, that society, the rest of society, at least the British side, does not take economic crime anywhere seriously enough. I went to one seminar where the speaker aired his frustration that while fraud accounts for £200bn in the UK, and it amounts to 59 per cent of serious crime, only 1 per cent of police resources are committed to tackling financial theft. Just as depressing, and shocking, was the statistic that just 2.6 per cent of calls to the national Action Fraud hotline are reviewed by a police officer.

Folks are being scammed and little is being done to catch the perpetrators. Fortunately, the banks currently pay up in around 90 per cent of cases, so few people are left out of pocket. That, though, fuels the suspicion that because they are reimbursed, the police and their bosses in the Home Office are not so bothered – they got the money back, no one was hurt, there's nothing to investigate, move on.



The banks of course should be concerned, but there's also the thought they could also be doing more to combat fraud, and that would command resources. This route – the straight, few questions asked, one of providing compensation – is quicker and cleaner.

That all means the clear winner is the fraudster. No wonder the crime is so prevalent. And it is a crime – a wrong is being committed – but little is being done to right it, no one is being caught and punished.



**There is little mileage for police in spending months, years, poring over computers, studying financial transactions. The politicians, their masters, want hits and they want them immediately**



These, too, are the low-level thefts – not so low-level when you tot up the amounts involved. There are also the high-end frauds, those entailing the taking of many millions. Here again, the picture is little different.

There's the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), but it's forever having to justify its presence and is underfunded and lacking in staff. The SFO is inevitably drawn into protracted scraps with corporations and their executives who employ the City's finest, most expensive lawyers. Neither do they possess all the tools required. In the US, the white-collar crime-busters make great inroads, thanks to their ability to submit evidence collected in such a way that would render it forbidden in the UK, and the use of plea bargaining.

The UK police are over-stretched, dealing with rising street crime, thuggery, domestic assaults, drugs and violence. There is little mileage, not much kudos, for them in spending months, years, poring over computers, studying financial transactions. The politicians, their masters, want hits and they want them immediately.

That's if the police are even qualified. They're not educated in finance, not familiar with the systems and terminology. Often, they do not know what they're looking for. It's not their fault: this is a highly specialist area.

In short, fraud is not sexy, it doesn't entail car chases, firing tasers, battering down doors – the scenes from police reality shows that fill our TV screens. Again, the political chiefs do not help – when it comes to picture opportunities they're quick to join an early-morning raid, not so willing to sit at a screen. They crave being seen as determinedly all-action, and staring at a collection of numbers does not cut it.

What's to be done? We urgently require a specialised, entirely focused, properly financed and equipped, national fraud agency. There should be no ifs and buts about it, no quibbles about the slowness of its inquiries and the amount of funding it will absorb. Its staff should have the power to seize material, to strike first and ask questions later. The new agency should have the ability to prosecute, to seek prison terms.

Perhaps then, in years to come, the Cambridge gathering will be discussing British successes in defeating economic crime. I can but hope.

*Chris Blackhurst is the author of 'Too Big To Fail – Inside HSBC, the Mexican drug cartels and the greatest banking scandal of the century', published by Macmillan*

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# UK sees one of the biggest drops in OECD real wages



‘Despite a tight labour market and rising nominal wages, real wages in the United Kingdom have declined,’ the report said (PA Wire)

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**AUGUST GRAHAM**

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The UK saw one of the biggest falls in real wages among OECD countries, a new report from the organisation shows.

Real wages dropped by 2.9 per cent between 2021 and 2022, according to the data, compared to a 2.3 per cent drop across the bloc.

The new data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also showed that the UK had one of the largest falls in employment among the least well-educated because of the pandemic.

Between the end of 2019 and the last three months of 2021, the rise in economic inactivity among those with lower levels of education was one of the highest among the OECD's 38 member countries.

The country is also "one of just a handful" of member countries where the employment rates for 55- to 64-year-olds and 65- to 74-year-olds were still below pre-crisis levels at the start of this year. Mostly, these people have fallen into economic inactivity rather than being unemployed.

"Despite a tight labour market and rising nominal wages, real wages in the United Kingdom have declined," the report said.

The report also found that the unemployment gap between people from minorities and white people had widened by 0.5 percentage points since the start of 2019. This has been fairly consistent in other countries too, the OECD said.

"Young people, low-educated and racial/ethnic minorities were also overrepresented among frontline workers – those who continued to work in their physical workplace and in proximity to other people during the pandemic," it said.

"Since the outbreak of the crisis, these workers reported more job insecurity, and lower overall health and mental wellbeing, while often remaining stuck with low wages and bad working conditions."

It found that those on lower incomes are also being worse hit by Russia's illegal war against Ukraine. In the six largest European countries the impact of the hike in energy and food prices – to a significant part influenced by the war – was about 50 per cent higher for those in the bottom fifth than those in the top fifth.

"Rising food and energy prices are taking a heavy toll, in particular on low-income households," said OECD secretary-general Mathias Cormann. "Despite widespread labour

shortages, real wages growth is not keeping pace with the current high rates of inflation.

“In this context, governments should consider well-targeted, means-tested and temporary support measures. This would help cushion the impact on households and businesses most in need, while limiting inflation impacts and fiscal cost of that policy support.”

*PA*

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# Premier League and EFL postpone weekend fixtures



West Ham's match in the Europa Conference League went ahead after a minute's silence on Thursday evening (Action Images/Reuters)

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**LUKE BAKER**  
**JAMIE BRAIDWOOD**

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The Premier League, English Football League (EFL) and Women's Super League have postponed their fixtures this weekend following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday.



The footballing bodies held an emergency meeting with the government yesterday morning to decide whether to postpone the weekend's fixtures and opted to cancel all games as a show of respect to the monarch after her 70-year reign, as the UK enters a period of national mourning.

A statement from the Premier League confirmed: "At a meeting this morning, Premier League clubs paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. To honour her extraordinary life and contribution to the nation, and as a mark of respect, this weekend's Premier League match round will be postponed, including Monday evening's game."

Decisions regarding postponements were determined following consideration of official mourning guidance, issued by the Cabinet Office, although it was left to individual sports event organisers to decide how to proceed – with cancellations not being mandatory.

The EFL and Football Association (FA) were aligned with the Premier League on their decision, which will also see the opening weekend of WSL postponed as a mark of respect. The decision will affect all grassroots football under FA jurisdiction, while football across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has also been cancelled.

A decision on next weekend's domestic fixtures, or the midweek European action due to be played in the UK, has yet to be taken but the Premier League said further updates would be provided in due course. The period of national mourning will extend to Monday 19 September, the day of the state funeral, and concern around policing means the status of next weekend's fixtures is currently uncertain.

Yesterday morning's emergency meeting held by the government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport involved all sporting bodies, who were told that there was "no obligation to cancel or postpone sporting events" during the national mourning period. Instead, it was left to the "discretion of individual organisations".

A further meeting between the Premier League, the EFL and the FA then took place at 11am and lasted around 25 minutes. *The Independent* understands all bodies were aligned with the thinking that postponing matches would be the “most appropriate” decision while weighing up how to best show respect to the Queen.

Other sporting events, such as England’s Test match against South Africa at the Oval and the PGA Championship at Wentworth, may still go ahead this weekend after play was postponed yesterday. Horse racing, meanwhile, transferred today’s meets to tomorrow to “provide an opportunity for the sport and its supporters to pay its respects”.

The postponements to men’s football will add further pressure to the fixture headache caused by the scheduling of the Qatar World Cup in November, while it will come as a blow to the WSL ahead of its opening weekend. Several WSL fixtures, such as Tottenham’s match against Manchester United and Chelsea’s fixture against West Ham, were set to be played at big stadiums following the success of Euro 2022 and rescheduling may prove difficult.

Elsewhere, there will be little room to rearrange postponed European games ahead of November’s World Cup. Rangers, Liverpool, Chelsea, Manchester City and Arsenal are all scheduled to play across Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week. *The Independent* understands discussions are ongoing but clubs involved may be worried by the optics of playing European matches in between the postponed domestic league fixtures.

Following the meeting of the Premier League and its clubs, the chief executive Richard Masters said: “We and our clubs would like to pay tribute to Her Majesty’s long and unwavering service to our country. As our longest-serving monarch, she has been an inspiration and leaves behind an incredible legacy following a life of dedication.

“This is a tremendously sad time for not just the nation but also for the millions of people around the world who admired her, and we join together with all those in mourning her passing.”

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# How does Klopp 'reinvent' his faltering Liverpool side?



The 4-1 defeat against Napoli was the worst result of a disappointing start to the season (PA)

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**RICHARD JOLLY**

SENIOR FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

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There are different forms of footballing heartbreak. For Liverpool, the sight of Wolves on Saturday had the game gone ahead would have been a reminder of the better kind. Thanks to

the vagaries of the fixture list, the men from Molineux were the final-day visitors to Anfield twice in four seasons. Jurgen Klopp's team won both games, and in vain. Manchester City trailed but prevailed in their respective matches and became champions on each occasion.

With 97 points in 2018-19 and 92 last year, Liverpool fell short by one on each occasion. Now that 97 and 92 feel distant tallies; not because they only have nine, but because they have dropped as many and seem headed for far fewer than in three of the last four campaigns.

Now they have an unwanted reminder that there is a different kind of despair. Even amid an unconvincing start to the season, even with the disappointment that accompanies a defeat at Old Trafford, there was nothing comparable with the trauma in Naples. That 4-1 evisceration has the potential to prove a one-off, but also to be the kind of symbolic indication that a dream and a team is fading.

Klopp has conjured many a memorable phrase over the years. "It looks like we have to reinvent ourselves," delivered in the bowels of Napoli's theatre of intimidation, may be his latest addition. Arguably, the reinvention had already begun, perhaps partly against his will. Gini Wijnaldum and Sadio Mane were pillars of his first great team and are gone. Each excelled at pressing and when Liverpool's pressing game breaks down, as it did completely against Napoli, the space behind their high defensive line is easily exploited. More than anyone else, Wijnaldum made Liverpool compact and Klopp had never seen them less compact than they were on Wednesday.

Reinvention is not necessarily a smooth process. Joe Gomez was supposed to be the future of Liverpool's defence and is two months into a new five-year contract. Instead, his shocking display underlines the importance of the absent and younger Ibrahima Konate. In the immediate future, Joel Matip may be a more reassuring presence.

In a post-Wijnaldum midfield, it can feel harsh to blame the injured Naby Keita when, unlike many another, he was not

hideously culpable in Italy but he was supposed to be part of the succession planning; he is nine years younger than James Milner, eight older than Harvey Elliott, a supposed bridge between generations. There were 17 years between Klopp's midfield. No wonder they were so stretched.



**In the past, Klopp has specialised in galvanising players but Liverpool keep making such slow starts**



If Liverpool could have benefited from the physicality and dynamism the enigmatic Keita has only sporadically delivered or the durability he has lacked, there was a glimpse of hope for the next game. Thiago Alcantara's reputation as a passer precedes him, but he was Liverpool's tackler in chief against Napoli: in his half-hour cameo, he made six tackles, more than the three midfielders and two full-backs who started mustered between them. With extra days to recover before the next fixture, he could now offer an injection of class against Ajax on Tuesday.

Liverpool's midfield has become emblematic of wider problems. It is where they have the most players and yet not enough enticing alternatives; from a group of 10, the mismatched trio who were overrun in the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona were the only three believed fit enough to start. For much of last season, especially the second half, Klopp seemed to have too many options as he had his strongest, deepest-ever squad. Now it feels as if he has too few compelling choices. Some are making up the numbers.



In attack, the quest for a combination to rival that of Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Mane – or, more recently, the Egyptian, the Senegalese and Luis Diaz – continues. Klopp has looked to South Americans for revitalisation but, in this most South American of European cities, they had contrasting fortunes. Diaz threatened the kind of solo heroics in vain Gareth Bale produced for Tottenham against Inter Milan in a breakthrough display a dozen years earlier. But Darwin Nunez was benched and if part of that reflected the way Firmino remains a crutch for Klopp, it was also a sign the £64m man is not yet fully trusted. If temperament is a factor, an oddity of a display at Goodison Park, when he had eight attempts at goal but many were unconvincing and his touch was poor, may not have helped his cause.

Perhaps, though, it was not the first time when Klopp got his selection wrong. Omitting Fabinho, albeit an out-of-form Fabinho, backfired at Old Trafford. Liverpool have been improved by Klopp's substitutions several times this season; under other circumstances, that is evidence of alchemy but now it prompts questions if his initial choices were right. Now a short-term fix entails more acute decision-making, with the improvement in defence and midfield Matip and Thiago may offer, along with the restoration of the intensity that enabled them to start with a flourish, not begin on the back foot.

And while Klopp has tended to be the motivator supreme, he is a manager who has specialised in galvanising players but Liverpool keep making such slow starts. If either the message or the messenger is stale, reinvention becomes tougher. And a season only eight games old has shown underlying concerns that a process of decline has begun. If near-misses have a kind of doomed glory, as several of the seasons before Klopp rejuvenated Liverpool showed, there is nothing magnificent about mediocrity.

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# Recovering after setbacks is Arteta's single biggest job



Arsenal played well at Old Trafford and dominated possession, but didn't win (AFP/Getty)

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**KARL MATCHETT**

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Arsenal are better. Arsenal are ready. Arsenal are back. From where and what they're ready for is still up for debate, but the excited masses of supporters have been – entirely understandably – near-giddy at the Gunners sitting top of the early Premier League table.

Unquestionably, there is greater cohesion in parts of the team at the start of this season, better depth in key areas and individual improvement on show in the squad.

On the sidelines, Mikel Arteta continues to cut an invested, demanding figure. He deserves credit for Arsenal being a more watchable, enjoyable (oh, and a more frequently winning) team for sure, even if there remains more than a tinge of over-animation about his technical area dramatics. More than a few have expressed the opinion of it being faintly comedic watching the Spaniard in action: furiously gesticulating and stretching to bellow orders at a player three yards away from him on a throw-in, or burying his face in his hands after the concession of a goal.

But therein also lies a part of the puzzle to solve which now confronts the Gunners: to truly transition into a side which can compete at the top again, they must be able to handle setbacks far better than the evidence until this point suggests.

Head-in-hands Arteta is only a metaphor for this, of course. In body language terms, the Old Trafford counterattack sucker-punch defeat will already be out of the system – but the mind also plays a funny role in this sport.

Arsenal, too often, have allowed one defeat to spiral, with another following soon after and dropped points being racked up quickly in quite the same way Martin Odegaard racked up final-third passes in the opening five games of the season.

The thing is, in that first quintet – all victories – the north London side did not actually play anybody certain to finish in the top half this term. Crystal Palace certainly *might*, but the rest – Leicester, Bournemouth, Fulham, Aston Villa – are not screaming early-season definites to do so. It means the first real test they faced, the first opponent to play them who held serious ambitions of their own, beat them.

Analysis and reasoning for the defeat played a significant part in the aftermath, as is usual when the biggest butt heads. Arsenal played well and dominated possession, but didn't win. It happens. It certainly does, but in this case, that's the entire point: up until now under Arteta and before him with Unai

Emery, the team had been easily identifiable by runs of wins over the league's fodder, and failures to win against better outfits... and those which follow.

Overblown boom and all-too-predictable bust has for too long been the status quo at the Emirates.



Head-in-hands Arteta has been a regular sight during Arsenal runs of defeats (AFP/Getty)

Roll it back to the start of 2019-20 and the unravelling of Unai. Just one defeat in eight was a reasonable start, albeit with too many draws, but that was followed by one win in 12.

Arteta, either side of the Covid interruption, got matters back on track with eight unbeaten beforehand and only two losses in eight to finish up with. But he also managed a run of seven defeats in 10 at the start of 2020-21 and another run of nine non-wins in 13 mid-season.

Five straight wins to end the campaign gave confidence but starting 21-22 with three straight defeats quickly eroded it. On and on it goes: they have beaten the likes of Wolves, Brentford, Watford and Leicester in a row, but a difficult defeat to Liverpool sends them spiralling to further subsequent losses to Palace, Brighton and Southampton.

It is a process to improve in team building and one which cannot be forced or rushed (at least if hundreds of millions are not available to spend), but it's also a significant psychological barrier to overcome as a team when it comes to winning those

most crucial of encounters... *and* bouncing back quickly when you don't.

Last week, United won. Whether Arsenal played *well* or not ultimately doesn't matter in the immediate aftermath: Erik ten Hag's tactics were employed better, or more clinically, than Arteta's were. Perhaps not in a sustainable fashion, but that's beside the point – you have to win the game which *is* played, not theoretically win more occasions if the same fixture was played 10 times over.

Since that hurdle was not crossed, the next one must be, and much-changed line-ups in the timid, glamourless Europa League do not count in the search for consistency.

Brentford, Tottenham and Liverpool lie in wait, each with their own big reasons for needing points and their own mental barriers to jump, but Arsenal – if they truly want to show they are ready to mix it near the top once more – cannot let that, or anything else, get in the way of an immediate return to form this time.

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# Grid penalties make for unpredictable weekend



Sainz was quickest in his Ferrari sprinkled with yellow on the team's 75th anniversary (Getty)

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**KIERAN JACKSON**

IN MONZA

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A day that started with composed tranquillity as the Formula One paddock marked their respect to Queen Elizabeth II ended with hope and optimism among the Tifosi fanbase, devoted to team Ferrari at Monza's centenary weekend.

After Charles Leclerc went quickest in first practice for the Scuderia, celebrating their 75th anniversary with flashes of yellow sprinkled over their scarlet red car under the scorching Italian sun, his teammate Carlos Sainz was top of the timesheets in practice two a few hours later.

Hope should spring eternal then for the Ferrari faithful travelling in their thousands to Lombardy this weekend, right? Unfortunately for the second time in two weeks, it's slightly more complicated than that.

After seven drivers took penalties in Spa-Francorchamps a fortnight ago, six will do so on Sunday because they exceeded power unit and gearbox limits – and Sainz is among those dropping to the back of the grid.

Joining him are Lewis Hamilton and Yuki Tsunoda, while the Red Bull pairing of Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez take a five-place and 10-place hit respectively. Valtteri Bottas will also drop 15 places.



The F1 paddock held a minute's silence before first practice on Friday at Monza (Getty Images)

The door, you feel then, is very much ajar for Ferrari's main man Leclerc to repeat his Monza success of three years ago. Yet with seven races left of a 2022 season that has glided away from Ferrari, the man he trails by 109 points in the World Championship is still the favourite.

After all, world champion Verstappen won from 14th on the grid at a canter in Belgium, taking the lead in lap 12 and never looking back. And while Monza is vastly different to the longest track on the calendar in Spa, it is the quickest and Red Bull's straight-line speed throughout this season and this new breed of cars has outpowered all around them.

"They [Ferrari] look good," Verstappen said. "I'm not worried about it, but we still have a few things to finalise. If you look at the long runs, I think we look quite good, and that's of course the most important for the race."

While sport in the UK on Friday – and football over the weekend – ground to a halt following Her Majesty's passing, F1 marked its own tribute with a one-minute silence in the pit lane prior to the first practice session, with F1 president Stefano Domenicali and FIA chief Mohammed ben Sulayem stationed alongside the British duo of Lewis Hamilton and George Russell.

A touching round of applause followed in the grandstands; a solitary Union Jack flag appeared too.



Lewis Hamilton described Queen Elizabeth II as an 'iconic leader and inspiration' (AFP via Getty Images)

Hamilton, who was appointed an MBE in 2008 by the Queen before receiving his knighthood last year, described her as an "iconic leader and inspiration" in a touching Instagram post early on Friday.

“I had the incredible honour of being able to spend time with her,” he said. “It is something I’ll never forget. We talked about our shared love of dogs and she was incredibly generous with her time.”

Hamilton, who is still trying to win his first race of 2022 and keep up his year-on-year victory record in F1, will do well to be anywhere near the front this weekend with his engine penalty – but was towards the top of the leaderboard in practice, finishing fourth and seventh in his two runs.

As well as Leclerc, the weekend may see an opportunity open up for Russell too, as the only other top-six driver not taking a penalty - he finished P3 and P4 in his practice sessions but did complain of bottoming on the straights.

Fellow Brit Lando Norris, who came second last year at Monza behind McLaren teammate Daniel Ricciardo, finished fourth in practice two in another strong showing by the 22-year-old.

A repeat this year, frankly, is beyond unlikely. McLaren’s race pace is nowhere near the frontrunners. Nonetheless, penalties galore should make for an intriguing and enthralling race come Sunday afternoon and a disjointed starting grid following qualifying tomorrow. Football fans: watch the motor racing this weekend.

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# Is ageing icon Nate Diaz being put out to pasture in Khamzat Chimaev fight?



UFC fan favourite Nate Diaz faces Khamzat Chimaev in a main-event bout (Getty Images)

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**ALEX PATTLE**

COMBAT SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

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If the main event of UFC 279 is to represent Nate Diaz's swansong in MMA's leading promotion, do not expect lush melodies and warm chord sequences. It is likely to be a sombre, uncomfortable affair, soundtracked by brutal strikes and taunting from the UFC's hired gun, Khamzat Chimaev.

When 37-year-old Diaz was paired with the Russian-born Swede, the fight announcement was met with incredulity and anxiety in equal measure. Diaz is unranked at welterweight and has fought just three times in the past six years – winning only one of those bouts, three years ago. Meanwhile, Chimaev is the UFC's fastest-rising star, 11-0 as a pro with 10 finishes; 5-0 in the UFC with four stoppages. The 28-year-old seems to be fast-tracking himself towards a welterweight title shot, especially with his last victory – a decision win against former title challenger Gilbert Burns.

So why would the UFC pit the most fearsome prospect in the promotion against an ageing icon, one who was never known for championship pedigree and who has just one fight left on his contract?

Some suggested spite was the motivation; that the UFC was out to punish a wantaway Diaz for allegedly playing hardball. The American has long expressed frustration with his current deal, after all, and has made clear his desire to move on. The UFC, some suggested, might be keen to send Diaz on his way with a significant defeat, damaging his profile and potentially costing him lucrative crossover bouts with the likes of YouTuber-turned-boxer Jake Paul.

UFC president Dana White dismissed that narrative, claiming that Diaz himself asked for a clash with Chimaev.

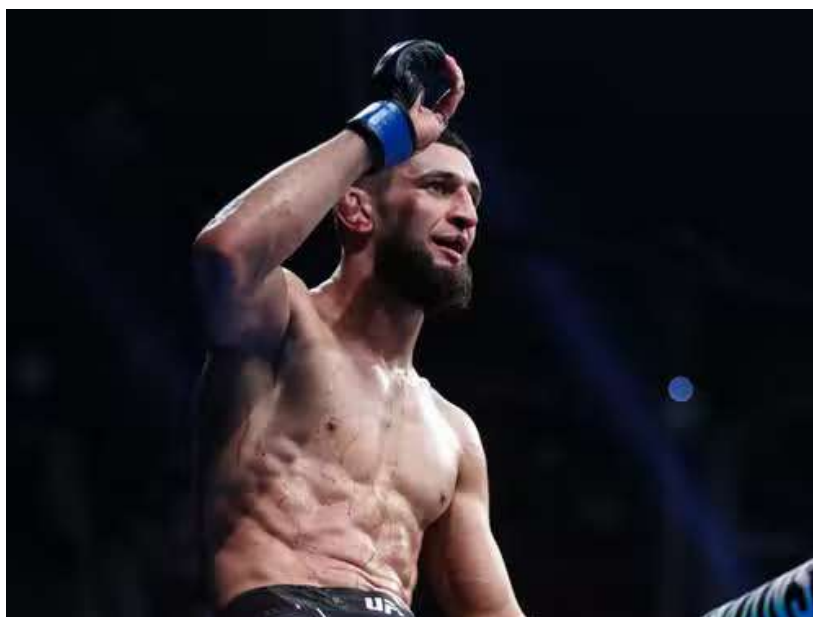
"I care about Nate a lot, I like Nate," White said at a press conference in July. "I said: 'Listen, kid, you think about the wars that Nate Diaz has put on and the incredible fights and the big fights that he's done with us; go do whatever you want to do, man.' But getting a fight done with him isn't as easy as seems.

"Everybody's like: 'Well, why don't you make a fight?' Well, he asked for [UFC heavyweight champion] Francis Ngannou. I



could go on forever, but I won't. We got it done. [Chimaev is] the fight he wanted, and it's a good fight; it's a fight that people will want to see, it's a fight that people will be interested in."

White is correct that the fight – a rarity as a pay-per-view main event without a title on the line – is an intriguing one. He at least stopped short of what would have been a disingenuous suggestion that the fight 'makes sense', which it does not, as one glance at the welterweight rankings reveals. Chimaev is remarkably already No 3 at 170lbs; Diaz is absent from the top 15 altogether.



Khamzat Chimaev is 5-0 in the UFC and 11-0 overall (Getty)

Diaz has also disputed White's suggestion that he asked to face Chimaev, saying in an interview with ESPN this week: "What they've got me doing right now is, they're acting like I called for this fight, which I didn't call for and I don't want – and didn't want and still don't want.

"But I don't give a fuck I'll fight anybody. The pressure's on him; he better finish me, because he's the next killer in town."

Diaz's use of the word "killer" might have been a reference to fans' appraisals of Chimaev's brutal style; the "Wolf" has exhibited one-punch knockout power, even at middleweight, but prefers a suffocating wrestling offence with the end goal always being a submission or vicious TKO. However, there is a connotation to "killer", one that fans perceived upon the

announcement of Diaz vs Chimaev and one that Chimaev has gleefully acknowledged as well.

When asked by ESPN this week how he envisions the fight with Diaz going, Chimaev said: “Make some money and smash his head, you know? Have some fun. The UFC wants me to kill that guy, I have to do it. I say always, I’m like a killer, you know? They pay for me, I take his head.”

When interviewer Brett Okamoto asked whether Chimaev saw himself as the UFC’s hitman in this weekend’s main event at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, the welterweight said: “Yeah, I’m like that.”



Diaz last fought in June 2021, losing on points to now-welterweight champion Leon Edwards (Getty Images)

Chimaev grew up watching Diaz but will exhibit no respect for the veteran for however long they are locked in the Octagon together on Saturday night. Some predict that it will be the full 25 minutes; if so, Diaz’s well-documented resilience might end up doing him more harm than good. Others anticipate that the American’s tendency to get cut easily will lead to a stoppage at some point in the first three rounds. Very few predict that Diaz will win, regardless of the means.

Then again, very few predicted that Diaz would beat Conor McGregor on short notice in 2016, but the Californian did just that, submitting the then-featherweight champion to go viral and cross over into the mainstream.

Diaz proved on that night in Las Vegas that he has little regard for the UFC's machinations. Six years on, on the same strip in the same sinful city, Diaz has the chance to prove that once more by producing what would amount to a stunning upset.

The truth is, Diaz is not supposed to be the swan in this scenario; the UFC might just see him as the old dog, and it is handing the leash to Chimaev and pointing to the shed.

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# Sports news in brief



The first day of the third Test at the Oval was washed out, and the second suspended (Getty Images for Surrey CCC)

## England and South Africa to resume third Test

England and South Africa will play out the deciding Test of their three-match series this weekend after play was suspended on Friday following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

After the opening day's play was washed out, Saturday's play will be considered to be day three of the series decider.

England's captain, Ben Stokes, said he would be "honoured" to play in the Queen's memory, with all professional and recreational cricket also cleared to resume this weekend. The ECB said a minute's silence would be observed followed by the

national anthems while black armbands will also be worn by players and coaches.

### **Pistorius could be released next year**

Convicted murderer and former Paralympic sprint champion Oscar Pistorius could be released from prison next year after receiving glowing behaviour reports during his time inside.

Pistorius won six Paralympic gold medals over 100m, 200m and 400m during an athletics career that also saw the man known as the “Blade Runner” compete in non-disabled events and become a global sporting icon.

He is serving a sentence of 13 years and five months in his home country of South Africa after shooting dead his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in their home in 2013. His bid for a parole hearing is opposed by the vice chair of Atteridgeville’s Parole Case Management Committee, Tebego Moloto, and Steenkamp’s parents are also believed to be against an early release as they do not think he has told the full truth surrounding the circumstances of their daughter’s death.

### **Women’s middleweight clash**

A landmark night for women’s boxing will play out at the O2 Arena in London tonight, as old foes Claressa Shields and Savannah Marshall clash to crown an undisputed middleweight champion. The pair met in the ring as amateurs, with Briton Marshall outpointing her American rival, who is out for revenge in their rematch.

Shields, 27, carries the WBA, WBC, WBF and IBF middleweight titles into the fight, while Marshall, 31, puts the WBO belt on the line.

Each woman is unbeaten as a professional at 12-0, though Marshall has 10 knockouts compared with Shields’s two.

## TalkSport investigate ‘inappropriate’ Sinclair tweet

Former England international footballer Trevor Sinclair is facing an investigation by his employer after posting on Twitter following the death of the Queen.

Sinclair, who now works for TalkSport, caused outrage from listeners when he wrote: “Racism was outlawed in England in the 60’s and its been allowed to thrive so why should black & brown mourn!! #queen”.

Sinclair’s account is no longer accessible and TalkSport has provided no further comment.

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# NOBODY'S HOME

Single women are currently spending the highest proportion of their income on housing costs and are far more likely to be discriminated against by the system, writes **Hannah Fearn**



The rental market is so heated that some prospective tenants are being asked to find a year's rent upfront (Getty)

When Claire\*, 33, separated from her abusive partner she was living in Ireland and was determined to move her family back home to her native England. Now a single mum to three children, one with autism and learning disabilities, she needed

enough money for the journey home and to put a deposit down on a property in which they could start over.

Claire's friends astonished her with the speed at which they rallied around. She found the perfect house for all four to start over in Wiltshire, but the landlord wanted six months' rent upfront. Her pals crowd-funded the cash and she settled in, registered her disabled 10-year-old for a special school, and claimed universal credit while she waited for the school place to come through, at which point she could finally get back to work.

"I was looking forward to this year being a fresh start," she says. "When I moved I was so happy. It was stability; I was thinking this is a new start for me and the kids."

But three months ago Claire received notice of her eviction, a section 21 notice stating that she had to leave by 9 August because the property was being repossessed by the landlord.

She immediately started to look for somewhere else to live but there was nowhere in her area she could afford. The rental market is so heated that some prospective tenants are being asked to find a year's rent upfront, or offer sums over the stated monthly rate to secure homes. If Claire moved areas, she'd have to start again with applications for a special school, meaning another year or more on benefits.



Some women are living in constant fear of no-fault evictions (Getty/iStock)

"I was trying not to be fussy but to do what was right for the kids. On universal credit, I get £1,500 a month. The housing

benefit element of that is £795, but £1,100 is the minimum I can find for a three-bed, and you're then up against discrimination because you're a single mum on universal credit. There aren't any housing options for people like me. My money situation has been so dire the last year, I've had to use food banks."

When we speak in late August – and following advice from her local authority housing adviser – Claire still hasn't left the property. When she is eventually forcibly evicted – a trauma she wishes she did not have to put her children through – Claire and her family will be moved into temporary accommodation, which will make it harder to find housing in the private sector in future. "I've got 15 years of good renting behind me, and now I've got a massive X against my name," she says.

Once her family is in temporary housing, her name will move higher up the social housing waiting list. But her situation is not unique. According to the charity Shelter, in the last 10 years the number of women in England who are homeless and living in temporary accommodation has increased by 88 per cent. There are now 75,000 women and their families who are homeless, accounting for 60 per cent of all homeless adults.

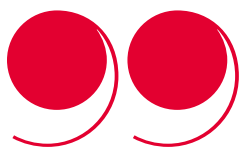
It's not just the poorest and most vulnerable who are suffering. Right across the economic strata, single women are being hit hardest by the housing crisis. Whether a single parent on benefits, those living in house shares or even the few who can afford to buy their own home on one income, households headed by single women are spending the highest proportion of their income on housing costs and are most likely to be discriminated against by a broken housing system.

Emma Sandry, 35 from Cardiff, struggled to buy her own home despite having a good job and a strong deposit obtained after selling the house she previously owned with her ex-partner. Having bought as part of a couple and as a single woman, she describes the process as "so much harder" to complete alone – not just because she only had one income to draw upon, but because of the discrimination she faced from sellers.

“First-time buyers who are couples are much more attractive people to sell to because everybody likes that idea of helping people get on the ladder and the first step to creating a family,” she tells me. “As a single woman, you’re not in that desired category. It’s frustrating when people have so many offers [on their property] that they ask for more information about who you are. I must have put in offers for at least a dozen properties. It was very frustrating.”



**I do have a chunk of savings to use as a deposit but I just don’t earn enough to get a mortgage on my own. Also, even if I could, with all the price rises I am not sure I would be able to cover all the bills alone**



Sandry says she “feels luckier than most” because she was able to purchase at all, and admits that was only because the first time she purchased she did so with a partner. “I’ve got lots of single friends who would love to be able to get on the ladder and because they’re single they can’t – that feels discriminatory. A lot of them are paying rent that’s going towards your landlord’s mortgage,” she says.

Also in Cardiff, 43-year-old Nicola Allen is stuck in a house share. She says the cost of housing and living as a single woman means she hasn’t been out of debt since university. “The debt is all manageable – credit card, a car loan – but it does mean that I haven’t really had the opportunity to save for a house,” she explains. “Aside from the lack of savings, my salary has also meant that undoubtedly I wouldn’t qualify for a mortgage for

anything half decent in the current market. My age possibly also places a limitation on the amount that I could borrow and the time frame of the mortgage.”

Allen has been sharing with her best friend for 17 years. The pair have lived in three properties together in that time, but the quality of accommodation they can afford has dropped in recent years. “Rental prices now mean that we are forced to live in one of the less desirable neighbourhoods where there is a lot of crime and antisocial behaviour. It is also on the very outskirts so transport and travel costs have also increased and there is very little in terms of things to do or sense of community, which feels very isolating and lonely.”

Allen describes her life as “very stuck”. She would like to change careers and leave Cardiff, but admits she cannot afford to leave her job or pay private rents elsewhere in Britain.

It’s a sentiment shared by house-sharers well into their 40s and even 50s elsewhere in the country. In London, among the most unaffordable cities for renters, 41-year-old Alicia Harvey shares with two other professional women in their 40s.

“I can’t help feeling like it is a sort of failure that I don’t own my own home and I often feel embarrassed to tell people that I still live in a house share,” she says. “I do have a chunk of savings to use as a deposit but I just don’t earn enough to get a mortgage on my own. Also, even if I could, with all the price rises I am not sure I would be able to cover all the bills alone.”

She describes renting with housemates as an “unstable” existence, but accepts she has no other option other than leaving her job and her friends behind. “I know I could move to a cheaper part of the country to give myself more of a chance, but as a single person I want to keep living in the city I have been in for the best part of two decades where I have lots of connections and a job I love. It’s much harder to make a fresh start somewhere new alone,” she says.



Living in a houseshare later in life feels like a kind of failure to some (Getty)

Alicia describes her situation – though increasingly common – as living out of step with a society set up around an assumption that women will marry and that a family will always have two incomes. She has looked into shared ownership, but in London a household income above £50,000 is often required – attainable as part of a couple, but hard to reach as a single earner.

According to research by the National Housing Federation, although the gender pay gap is narrowing in 2020/21 compared to 2016/17 (in part due to pressure imparted by government legislation insisting on publication of these statistics for larger companies), buying a house is increasingly unaffordable for single women on an average salary as wages are not keeping up with house price growth.

Data from the Office for National Statistics show that in England women still earn almost 31 per cent less than men do, on average. Meanwhile, the average house in England cost £50,000 more in 2021/22 than in 2016/17.

Although female median earnings have increased by 10.4 per cent over this period – slightly faster than house prices, and affordability has improved a little in five regions – a gender gap remains. Data on house price to income ratios exposes the extent of the problem: the median price of a house in England is 11.9 times a woman's earnings, whereas it is only 8.2 times a man's earnings. That means a woman would need almost 12



years of wages to buy the same house that a man could buy with just over eight years of work. A salary of £56,229 is required to buy an average-priced home in England. Average earnings for women fall short of this salary by 63 per cent and men by 47 per cent.

Importantly, the gender pay gap isn't only explained by the work that women choose or the hours they work. A study of the gender pay gap carried out by the ONS built a model on hourly pay to try to understand the differences between sexes. It found that, inevitably, occupation had the largest effect, working patterns and geographic region were also relevant, but, as Bekah Ryder of the National Housing Federation emphasises, “nearly two thirds of the pay gap was unexplained by factors in the model”.

That means other factors, including direct pay discrimination against women, played a role. “That comes down to your ability to access the housing in the open market,” Ryder says. “It’s difficult for lone females: they’re more likely to live in poverty, and have their income fall short of that required to buy a house or to meet the rental payments. We know that access to housing is an issue that affects both women and men but there are [specific] issues for women – the gender pay gap, greater care responsibilities, women are more at risk of domestic violence.”



Women do 60 per cent more unpaid work than men (Getty)

And while social housing supports more single mothers than any other tenures, that's partly because they are so vulnerable elsewhere: renting statistics show that single mothers are far less

likely to be offered a private tenancy than other individuals. Yet there is an acute shortage of social housing, meaning that single women about to be hit by the cost-of-living crisis have nowhere to go. “There’s going to be a huge increase in the number of people who are vulnerable and at risk of homelessness,” Ryder warns.

Rising house prices, the lack of new housing stock available and the lack of social housing all impact on rising rents and unsustainable competition in the private rented sector all impact on single women, particularly mothers. Government policies to cap the “local housing allowance” – the part of universal credit that is awarded to support the cost of housing – and to limit benefits to single parents to just two children also disproportionately hit single women. Households headed by single women are more likely to be in receipt of housing benefit; 60 per cent of those women are over 65 years old, so this isn’t a problem confined to childbearing years when the ability to work may be compromised.

But it’s not just government policy causing these problems. The social pressures underpinning women’s lives are the primary reason why single women have been hit so hard by house prices and housing shortages – and the effects are most acute for the most vulnerable women.

According to Dr Mary-Ann Stephenson, director of the Women’s Budget Group (WBG), much of the disparity in housing chances between the sexes comes down to the financial burden of unpaid care work. Even today, in 2022, women do 60 per cent more unpaid work than men. Most of that is care and domestic working, including cleaning, preparing meals, child and elderly care, and what is known as the “mental load” of remembering and carrying out every requirement related to these tasks, be that food shopping or taking a child to the dentist.

“That leaves less time for paid work, meaning they earn less and are more likely to be poor, and that’s the reason for the gender affordability gap,” Dr Stephenson says. It’s also a self-perpetuating cycle: employers perceive women as likely to be

bogged down by caring opportunities and so are discriminated against at work leading to lower salaries, and the knock-on effect for housing is that women are perceived by landlords or estate agents as not being able to afford something they can.

There are also even more troubling consequences of this disparity, as Dr Stephenson explains: “Where there’s domestic violence or abuse, [it means] they find it difficult to leave violent relationships – particularly at the moment. People are reporting women looking at their finances and deciding they’re not going to leave because it’s about their kids having a roof over their head.”

Sometimes, even in spite of violence and abuse, that’s an understandable position to take. A report by the WBG into the state of housing for women in Coventry, *A Home of Her Own*, found that the acute shortage meant the city didn’t have any women-only homelessness provision, and there had been a series of sexual assaults in the mixed shelters provided by the local authority. There was also a dire shortage of refuge beds. After the report, changes were made – but the situation is echoed across the country.

Leanna Fairfax, a PhD student researching the experiences of single women in temporary accommodation in Leeds, is a mother who has twice experienced homelessness herself. She says the services that were available for women only a decade ago, such as support to furnish a temporary property with basics such as a bed, a sofa and a refrigerator, are no longer available. Untrained and under-prepared services such as schools are becoming unplanned support workers to homeless single mothers and their children due to extreme housing precarity.



There is a dire shortage of refuge beds meaning some women will end up homeless (Getty/iStock)

The lack of affordable housing for women left homeless due to relationship breakdown means families are being pushed far away from the networks they rely on to survive. “One woman I was speaking to had been placed far out, away from family, far from the school,” Fairfax says. “It made her anxious and depressed, she couldn’t afford to get on buses to get to places.

“When I think about my experience [of homelessness], I just think thank god it’s not in this time period. I think we’re in a worse situation than we were 10 years ago because of the vast cuts to the welfare system and support services being withdrawn. The community care grant and crisis loan – these are things I accessed, and those services are not available now. On top of that we’ve also got the welfare cap and the two-child limit – that is particularly concerning for women who are fleeing domestic violence. If you’re having to leave because you’re in an unsafe environment but you’re thinking you’re going to be severely worse off living on £1,100 a month with four children, it’s just not enough to survive on.”

Experts say the single policy that could make a difference for single women would be to boost the provision of social housing, through huge investment from government and a rapid new development scheme. That would require accepting that the expansion of the private rented sector to do the job that social

housing used to do has failed, and particularly for women and families with young children who need stability and security of tenure close to a school of their choice. Britain requires at least 90,000 new social homes a year to keep pace with demand, let alone start to make adjustments to the wider housing profile of the country; today, at an ambitious estimate, we're building less than a third of that.



**To achieve that vision, the government would have to be willing to take on the significant proportion of the middle-income population which holds a buy-to-let property as an investment for retirement**



Dr Stephenson of the WBG says: “Successive governments haven’t wanted to deal with that. It’s fascinating seeing some of the people around [new prime minister] Liz Truss talk about the ‘Singapore-on-Thames’ vision. One of the things they do well in Singapore is they build a lot of social housing! We’ve come to a point where social housing is seen as a last resort safety net for people, but we need properly provided social housing which would reduce demand in the private rented sector which would stop so many houses being sold as buy-to-let, which would also help manage house prices.”

To achieve that vision, the government would have to be willing to take on the significant proportion of the middle-income population which holds a buy-to-let property as an investment for retirement.

Some housing associations, such as Women's Pioneer Housing Group, deal specifically with women's housing needs.

Pioneering chief executive Tracey Downie says she hasn't yet seen any evidence that the Conservative government – or prime minister Liz Truss – have any recognition that there is a sex bias against women achieving housing security in Britain.

Though the struggle of single mums may be discussed in parliament, there is less interest in the needs of single women from their mid- to late-50s onwards. Downie says: “You may find yourself on your own and you won't have accumulated wealth because of changes in your employment – looking after children or an elderly parent might have meant you have fractured employment – and now you have a financial history that makes it more difficult to rent or buy. Even low-cost shared ownership is still going to be heavily favoured towards men.”

Downie says her job is to make sure policymakers are talking more about these issues and to convince developers to work with small housing organisations like her own to meet these specific needs being missed by the market. She suggests new policies such as a Help to Buy specifically for mature or single women would provide additional financial support, while also recognising that it's not just young people who are being failed by the housing market in its current form.

This is welcome news for campaigners for single women's rights such as journalist and author Nicola Slawson, a single woman in her 30s who rents alone and authors the Single Supplement newsletter. Slawson is the host of a community of single women on social media who feel pushed off the political discussion around the cost-of-living crisis.

“They are fed up of hearing about policies for ‘families’. It should be ‘households’, because there are millions of people that live on their own,” she tells me. “Whenever support is mentioned, they don't mention people who live on their own at all. In the energy crisis, the cost-of-living crisis – they are just overlooked. It's like the government doesn't even realise that there are people who live on their own. Nothing has changed despite the experience of the pandemic.”





**Even Help to Buy schemes are out of reach for many single women (Getty)**

Slawson hears from women in every situation within her community, and housing is one of the most common topics discussed on the Single Supplement Facebook group. The cost-of-living crisis is causing even more concern. “So many people in my community are feeling so anxious at the moment. All the extra cash that they could save as a buffer in case something does happen will be eaten up and they won’t have that safety net,” Slawson says. “Single people pay on average £7,000 more per year on household bills and food. If you’re living in a one-bedroom flat it costs exactly the same to heat if two people live there. That’s something nobody pays any attention to.”

And Slawson herself is living through the crisis. When she found the home she rents in Shropshire two years ago she was up against 20 other applicants, which was competition enough. Now she hears of 50 people bidding on every property. Letting agents are also encouraging potential tenants to offer a year’s rent upfront – often a sum as large as a deposit to buy a property.

“I just had a bit of a try to get on the property ladder and I just kept getting outbid,” she says. “On two incomes I could try to get more, but I can only [borrow] a certain amount and there doesn’t seem to be any kind of help. In the West Midlands you can only get a Help to Buy equity loan if the property is £250,000 minimum. Now I’m renting still and I just have this low-level anxiety constantly that I’m going to get a no-fault

eviction. I don't know what I'd do. I'm just waiting to be told there's a massive hike in my rent and I'll just have to accept it because I don't want to get kicked out."

The energy crisis is dominating the debate, but as Liz Truss enters Downing Street a second challenge will be to address the housing crisis. Recognising that women are feeling the effects of that crisis more sharply ought to be a good starting point for the UK's third female prime minister.

*\*Some names have been changed to protect the identities of the people involved*

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# CROCODILE TEARS

The reptile species is under threat by hunters and genetic deviation, forcing scientists to step in, says **Nelson Gonzalez**



A biologist poses with newly-hatched Cuban crocodiles as they are relocated in Cienaga de Zapata, Cuba (Reuters)

Shirtless and waist-deep in the dark waters of Cuba's palm-speckled Zapata Swamp, researcher Etiam Perez releases a baby crocodile confiscated from illegal hunters back into the wild.

It is a small victory, he says, in a bigger battle. Cuban crocodiles, an endemic species found only here and in a swamp on Cuba's

Isle of Youth, are critically endangered and have the smallest natural habitat left of any living crocodile species, scientists say.

“We are trying to bring them back from the edge of extinction,” Perez says as the spotted reptile, mouth full of fine teeth, kicked its striped tail and disappeared.



A newly-hatched Cuban crocodile emerges onto a biologist's hand at a hatchery in Zapata swamp (Reuters)



Cuban crocodiles swim at the Zapata hatchery (Reuters)

Illegal hunting and hybridisation with American crocodiles – which muddles the species' genetics – have for decades threatened populations here. A warming climate, which alters the sex ratio of newborn crocs, poses a new threat.

And despite the fact that the Cuban government has protected virtually all of the vast swamp – widely considered to be the best

preserved in the Caribbean – that may still not be enough, scientists say.

“When you compare the Cuban crocodile with other species in the world, its house is very small,” says Gustavo Sosa, a Cuban veterinarian at Zapata.



A Cuban crocodile swims with fishes after being released into the wild in the Zapata swamp (Reuters)



Cuban crocodiles scramble for bait at the Zapata Swamp hatchery (Reuters)

Cuban scientists estimate that around 4,000 Cuban crocodiles live in the wild. But because the area they prefer within the wetland is relatively small, a climate-related disaster – increasingly common now globally – could wipe out most of the population.



Those concerns decades ago prompted the Cuban government to underwrite a hatchery program that annually releases several hundred crocodiles into the wild. Researchers like Perez also liberate crocodiles confiscated from hunters as part of a program that has helped reduce poaching of the species.



A crocodile taxidermy in a restaurant at the Zapata swamp (Reuters)



Cuban crocodile meat is prepared in a restaurant at the Zapata swamp (Reuters)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which listed the species as critically endangered in 2008, says its assessment and population estimates need updating, but confirms long-standing concerns over the limited habitat of the species.



“With the hatchery we are trying to increase the historical range of the Cuban crocodile and of course increase the number of these individuals in the wild,” Perez says.



A Cuban crocodile swims after being released into nature in the Zapata swamp (Reuters)



Veterinary technician Enrique Vasallo releases newborn Cuban crocodiles into their cage at the Zapata hatchery (Reuters)

The sale of crocodile meat in Cuba is tightly controlled by the state, and only those crocodiles with physical defects or hybrid genetics, for example, are allowed in restaurants. An illegal market, however, can still be found in some areas, particularly around the swamp.

Fuel shortages, antiquated equipment and often inhospitable conditions are constant challenges in Cuba, a Caribbean island

nation gripped by a dire economic crisis.



**A Cuban crocodile hatches at the Zapata swamp (Reuters)**



**Veterinarian Gustavo Sosa washes newly-hatched Cuban crocodiles in the Zapata hatchery (Reuters)**

But at Zapata, those concerns feel distant as this year's crop of freshly hatched crocs, still covered in mucus from their eggs, snap their jaws at pieces of fresh river fish, moving in unison as they discover their new world.

The newborns quickly become fierce and intimidating predators, scientists say, capable of reaching lengths of nearly five meters as adults. The Cuban crocodile, says veterinarian Sosa, is especially pugnacious, with little fear of humans.

"It is a very curious critter," says Sosa. "When you see one in nature ... you know it is a Cuban crocodile because they come to

you.”

*Photography by Alexandre Meneghini*

*Reuters*

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# ‘I feel like I was used’: the rise of ‘friend bombing’ and why we need to talk about it

Have you experienced an intense friendship formed at rapid speed, only for it to come crashing down just as quickly? Then you may have been friend bombed, writes **Olivia Petter**



Psychologists advise against moving too quickly in friendships (Getty Images)

When Lucy\* met Abigail\*, she thought she'd hit the friendship jackpot. "I'd never met someone who made me laugh so much," she recalls. "Abi was hilarious, well-travelled, and we had so many common interests, from spirituality to theatre. She showered me with compliments; I was flattered by her attention." Both women had just got out of long-term relationships, and also both worked in IT – though Lucy was significantly more senior than Abi. Within weeks there were joint parties, weekends away, even one Christmas together. For a while, things were great. But after a year of friendship, something changed.

"Abi started to slowly emotionally withdraw from me," recalls Lucy. "We were in the back of a cab when she told me she wouldn't be available for Christmas that year, which was odd since we'd been discussing it for months."

Shortly after, Abi went away for three weeks; Lucy took care of her puppy. "I made a joke on Facebook that I wished I could keep the puppy," she says. "I don't think Abi realised it was a joke – she commented on the post: 'Well, if it bothers you that much, you can have my dog.' I emailed her and said it was just a joke but she reprimanded me for judging her as a pet parent. I knew that was the beginning of the end."

Looking back on it all, Lucy feels like Abi was inauthentic from the beginning. "I think I was more of a valuable tool for her than a true friend," she says, citing work scenarios where Lucy helped Abi to get ahead. "I feel like she used me – then when she had what she wanted, I was dumped."

Experiences like Lucy's are common. They are friendships that are, in many ways, an extension of those formed between women in nightclub bathrooms: intense, emotional, ephemeral. Take them out of the bathroom and into real life, though, and things become a little more complex. I call this "friend bombing", a specific type of friendship that forms unusually fast and then – often out of nowhere – comes crashing to an end.

"It's normal for some friendships to flourish in the beginning but become more distant through the course of our lives," says Josh

Smith, a counsellor at the charity Relate. “Often this is associated with life transitions: the friends we make at school or as a young parent might be less relevant to us when for example we leave school or our children grow up.”

The distinction between this typical process and a “friend bombing” relationship is that the patterns can mirror those in abusive romantic relationships. “Like with intimate relationships, there’s scope for friendships to become abusive,” explains Smith, making the comparison to “love bombing”, a form of manipulative behaviour where someone “bombs” their partner with extreme displays of affection and attention – only to later do a 180, becoming distant and possibly cruel, leaving the victim agonising over how they can get back to the “bombing” stage. “Psychiatrist Dr Dale Archer describes the love bombing pattern as IDD – intense idealisation, devaluation, followed by discard,” explains Smith.



Some people may be more susceptible to friend bombing than others (Getty Images)

Integrative psychotherapist Tasha Bailey explains that friendships such as these can go through a “honeymoon phase” similar to that which is experienced in romantic relationships. “This is an exciting and hopeful time,” says Bailey, “as we imagine what this friendship could become.” There might also be feelings of discomfort at the pace of the friendship. “An example of friend bombing might be when a new friend says ‘I



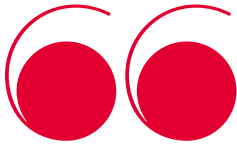
love you' or over-showers us with praise despite only knowing us for a short time. This can lead us to feel a pressure to return the favour, even if we don't feel the same way."

This happened to Michelle\*, 42, who struck up an intense friendship with a fellow single mum, Rose\*, outside the school gates in Aberdeen in 2018. "I'd gone to pick up my son, Andrew, who had fallen over badly that day. This woman I'd never met before started asking me about him and we totally hit it off from there."

Over the course of the next 18 months, the two women became intensely close. "The connection was strong," Michelle recalls. "Rose would regularly flatter me; she really made me feel good about myself. We were in and out of each other's houses all the time and the kids loved each other in the classroom and out."

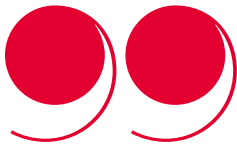
Things started to change after Michelle went looking for a new home. "I felt a bit of jealousy," she says. "I was moving to a bigger house because of success at work and Rose, I assume, started to feel resentful because she couldn't afford to move despite wanting to." Eventually, Michelle stopped hearing from Rose. "It was like she ghosted me," she says.

Another woman, Ellie\*, 34, recalls how she became fiercely close with Maggie\*, who was dating her husband's best friend. "After he broke up with her, she quickly became completely dependent on me," Ellie recalls. "I struggled with my friendships as a child and I don't have loads of friends. So, for me to have this sort of close friendship was a very big deal. I saw us as bosom buddies and imagined we would be friends when we were 80 years old."



## **An instantly intense friendship can be a sign it is unbalanced and inauthentically developed**

*Tasha Bailey, integrative psychotherapist*



However, as soon as Maggie entered into a new relationship, she slowly stopped contacting Ellie. They had one blow-up argument in which Ellie said some unkind things she didn't mean – and then that was that. “I was shocked and totally devastated,” recalls Ellie. “I messaged her and she ignored me. Aside from snapping that one time I had done nothing but look out for her.” It took Ellie a long time to heal from the dissolution of the friendship. “I would wake up in the night and struggle to sleep because I was so angry and upset,” she says.

There are a few reasons why psychologists advise against moving too quickly in friendships. “An instantly intense friendship can be a sign it is unbalanced and inauthentically developed,” says Bailey. “Since one person has more control over the intensity and intimacy of the friendship, the other is left dependent on their cue. In some ways, friend bombing can be emotionally abusive, as it can be a tool of control within that relationship. It is as though the friend-bomber has a remote control that determines the intensity of the friendship.”

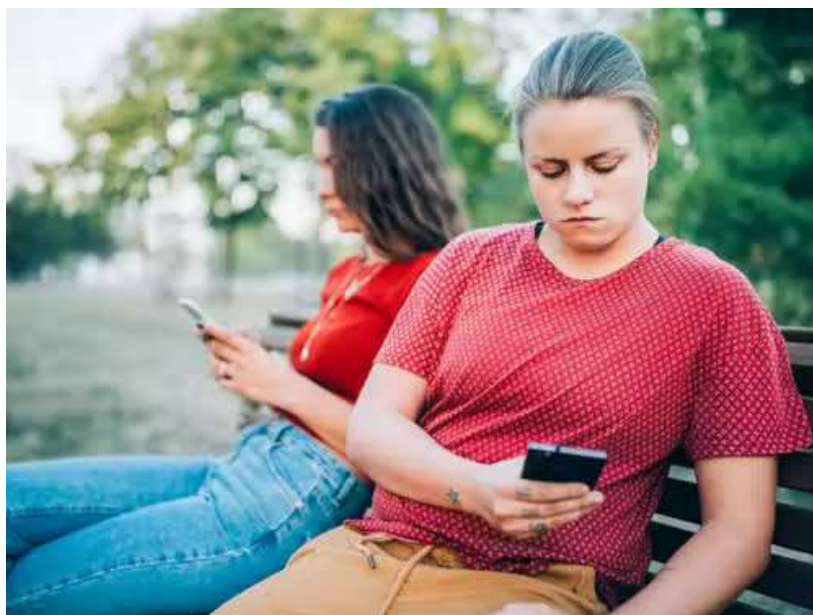
Dr Marisa G Franco, professor at the University of Maryland and author of *Platonic: How Understanding Your Attachment Style Can Help You Make and Keep Friends*, adds that by becoming friends with someone too quickly, you run the risk of making premature judgements and becoming too invested in

them before you even know who they are. “Just as in romantic relationships, instant chemistry does not always mean someone is a good match for us as a friend,” she explains.

Among psychologists, love bombing is often linked to narcissism. Dr Franco suggests the same could be said for friend bombing. “When you become friends with a narcissist, they tend to be really charismatic and pull people in quickly,” she explains. “But as the friendship continues, they tend to turn people off a lot as their manipulative and egocentric behaviour emerges.”

This was something Lucy noticed with Abi, who she says made a habit of boasting about men being attracted to her, or flirting with her when she went out. “I dismissed it at first,” she says. “We all have our foibles.”

If you feel like you are being friend bombed, Dr Franco advises pulling back from the friendship and setting some clear boundaries. “Just be discerning and ask yourself if this is really someone you can rely on during your times of need,” she says. “Is this someone who you feel like you really know? Do they have other good relationships in their life? Slow down the friendship so that you can assess whether it is truly healthy. Just don’t reciprocate.”



There are a few reasons why psychologists advise against moving too quickly in friendships (Getty Images)

Some people may be more susceptible to friend bombing than others, particularly those who, like Ellie, struggled with friendships as children and continue to do so as adults. For them, the appeal of a friend-bombing relationship is understandable. “It’s a way of experiencing the gains of intimacy while trying to skip over its liabilities; it’s like trying to have cake for your entire meal. But you can’t skip a step with friendship. You need time, consistency and varied circumstances to reveal whether or not this is a good friend.”

For those who have experienced it, Smith advises seeking support, either through friends or counselling. “This sort of behaviour can both exploit and be the cause of low self-esteem, which talking therapies can help to address,” he adds. Additionally, Bailey suggests looking at the friendship objectively, possibly writing down the things they have done that make you feel uncomfortable. You could also try confronting them.

“If they are able to take accountability and share why they have pulled away, you can thoughtfully set boundaries together to ensure it doesn’t happen again,” says Bailey. “If they refuse to acknowledge it or invalidate your experience, this is likely a sign that this is not a friend that you need in your life. It is important for us to have friendships that are mostly predictable and secure.”

*\*names have been changed*

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# 'Tis the season for sadness

Don your cosiest jumper, fetch a pumpkin-spiced latte and find a window to stare longingly out of. It's time to embrace Sad Girl Autumn, says **Meredith Clark** – gloomily, of course



On Wednesday (and every other day) we wear brown (Getty/iStock)

The nights are getting colder. Our sleeves are longer, jackets thicker. And supermarket shelves are prematurely filling up with pumpkins and lashings of garish tinsel. Now, even that most zeitgeisty of trends is hanging up its high-rise bikini and sashaying into a Valencia-filtered distance. Yep, “Hot Girl



Summer” – that time when women are encouraged to unapologetically embrace their sexiest selves – is no more.

As someone whose skin fries the second they’re exposed to UV rays, I’m willing to admit that summer has never been my thing. Good news, though: a superior time of year is on the horizon called Sad Girl Autumn. I’ve never been more ready.

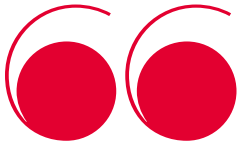
Sad Girl Autumn is like Hot Girl Summer’s cool aunt. She lives in a haunted cottage in the woods, and believes pumpkin-scented candles can cure almost any heartbreak. Her colour palette is strictly green, orange, and brown tones, and she relates a little too closely to Taylor Swift’s “All Too Well”, a plaintive banger about a breakup.

Now I know what you’re thinking: Sad Girl Autumn sounds like every other arbitrary trend built from the depths of the internet. It’s true that trends like “Healing Girl Summer” or “clean girl aesthetic” exist in a vacuum, and are only reserved for a very select group of people (*cough* white, *cough* thin). But Sad Girl Autumn is nothing like these other micro-trends, because it’s reflective of a culture – music, movies, fashion, fragrances – that celebrates melancholy, nostalgia, and unapologetically female expressions of emotion.

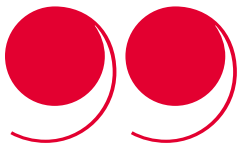
Speaking of Taylor Swift, we must thank her for originating the season. Last November, the singer-songwriter put a name to “Sad Girl Autumn” when she released a re-recorded version of her album *Red*, and with it “All Too Well (Taylor’s Version)” – a 10-minute update of the original track (and the version that I scream along to in the car.)

On its initial release in 2012, Swift’s sixth studio record was often characterised as a “fall album” by fans – and even by Swift herself – for its depiction of the colourful imagery of the season. With lyrics like “the air was cold” and “autumn leaves falling down like pieces into place”, “All Too Well” in particular captures the feeling of change that inevitably comes with autumn.





**This time of year, I like to partake in some of my favourite Sad Girl activities. The only food that I consume must be done strictly in stew form, and I light a pumpkin-scented candle for so long that I almost burn down my apartment**



In the re-recording, a now 32-year-old Swift analyses the breakdown of her relationship with a man 10 years her senior. She relives the inner conflict her barely legal self was feeling at the time, but with the wider worldview and understanding that comes with being in your thirties. Unlike many women – who are told they must mourn the end of a relationship within a certain length of time before they *get back out there* – Swift gave herself the right to process her grief nearly 10 years on, and on the largest of platforms no less. Along with the 10-minute version of “All Too Well” came its 14-minute short film accompaniment, starring *Stranger Things*’ Sadie Sink and Dylan O’Brien. It was filled with neutral tones, flannel shirts, and the quintessential fall foliage of upstate New York. Although, as someone actually from the region, I know that when Swift says, “We’re singing in the car getting lost upstate,” she actually means, like, Tarrytown. Not only did her lyrics capture the nostalgic essence of Sad Girl Autumn, but she provided visuals to match.

Really, though, Sad Girl Autumn isn’t sad at all. As the unofficial antithesis to Hot Girl Summer, Sad Girl Autumn has brought about a newfound appreciation for the overall gloominess of the September to November months. It’s about sitting in the

discomfort of sadness, which occurs right around the time that the sun starts setting at 6.15pm.

This time of year, I like to partake in some of my favourite Sad Girl activities. The only food that I consume must be done strictly in stew form, and I light a pumpkin-scented candle for so long that I almost burn down my apartment. I rewatch every season of *Gilmore Girls*, because the show's fictional town is perpetually autumnal. My entire wardrobe gets swapped out from crop tops and jean shorts to turtlenecks, cable-knit sweaters, and leather jackets – there's something so restrictive about the fashion of Hot Girl Summer that brings out physical insecurities I didn't even know I had. Oversized *everything* is a much better use of my time.

There are so many movies fit for a Sad Girl Autumn as well. In the 1998 film *Practical Magic*, Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman play witchy sisters raised by their aunts, who must bring the women of their New England town together to defeat an evil force. Although it's sometimes cheesy, *Practical Magic* has a tender emphasis on sisterhood that could warm any heart. Its twinkling soundtrack is full of Stevie Nicks and Joni Mitchell, while its depiction of a New England autumn never fails to make me long for home.



Outfit goals: Meg Ryan rocks a quintessential Sad Girl look in 'When Harry Met Sally' (Shutterstock)

*When Harry Met Sally* is another essential Sad Girl Autumn viewing, mainly for Billy Crystal's display of thick sweaters and Meg Ryan's outfits presenting an unintentional guide to chic menswear. In fact, #MegRyanFall has even become a popular trend on social media, with people taking their fashion cues from her rotation throughout the film of blazers, belted trousers, and wide-brimmed hats. As if they're the changing leaves in Central Park, Harry and Sally's transition from friends to lovers is paralleled by the season's transition from summer to fall. Plus,

there's nothing more Sad Girl Autumn than falling in love with your bestie.

It's safe to say that Sad Girl Autumn and its embracing of autumnal melancholy may not be for everyone, especially the faint of heart. But if it's any consolation, it never lasts. Sad Girl Autumn will be replaced by Cozy Boy Winter, followed by Short King Spring. Before you know it, it'll be Hot Girl Summer once more. Perhaps an awareness of the passing of time is what sets Sad Girl Autumn apart from the rest of these seasonal micro trends. Rather than living in the moment, practitioners of Sad Girl Autumn recognise that time is fleeting, and that those orange leaves will quickly turn to mulch. So you might as well light a pumpkin candle while you're at it.

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# Can I get a refund now the Proms have been cancelled?



The final night of the concert will no go ahead in light of the Queen's death (AFP/Getty)

**Q** It might seem an awful thing to ask given the national mourning, but I was planning to travel to London on Saturday and stay overnight for the last night of the Proms. Now that it has been cancelled, what rights do I have for a refund of my advance train tickets and hotel booking?

**Name supplied**

**A** Tens of thousands of people, including football fans who have seen the weekend's Premier League fixtures cancelled as a mark of respect to the Queen, are asking similar questions.

Advance rail tickets are normally not refundable, but some operators may offer more flexibility. LNER (which runs trains on the East Coast main line) is saying: "If you want to change any previous plans or no longer travel, you can change or refund your ticket."

Otherwise, you can change the date free of charge up to 6pm the day before travel. You will need to select a day for a replacement trip. Any difference in fare is payable.

Next, the hotel. If you have taken advantage of a lower room rate in return for a non-refundable booking – as many of us do – then clearly you are in a difficult position. Call the hotel and discuss options. A cash refund is extremely unlikely, but if you are booked with a chain it may be that you can take a credit note to be used at some time in the future. An independent hotel may allow you to postpone to a later date. In any case, you may be asked to prove that you had tickets for a now-cancelled event.

The only hotel group with a published policy so far that I know of is Travelodge. The company tells me: "Anyone who has a current booking in one of our London hotels and needs to change it, we can change it to a different date or offer a credit note for a future booking. We will do the same for bookings made outside of London for an event or gathering that has been cancelled due to respect for the Queen during the mourning period and till the funeral."

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# A BITTER END

**Dominique Boulan** discovers the top limoncellos to savour



The weather has started to cool off and kids are returning to their classrooms, but summer is not officially over yet. So, we're holding on to those final days of bliss as tightly as we can, by bringing those sunny vibes into our home.

One way to do that is with a summery drink. For us, nothing says holiday like an alfresco dining experience – whether that's



on your balcony, patio or in your garden – followed by an ice-cold digestif in the form of limoncello.

Just the smell of this fresh, zesty Italian tippie transports us back to a terrace on a bustling square or at a beach-view restaurant after stuffing ourselves with pizza and pasta, living la dolce vita.

The liqueur, made from lemon zest (and sometimes juice), sugar and neutral alcohol, is as much a part of the Mediterranean country's cuisine as some of its most well-known dishes, and many recipes have been around for more than 100 years, passed down from generation to generation. You can drink it straight from the freezer – which is the most common way of consuming it – or fridge when served in an ice-cold glass, over ice or as part of the refreshing limoncello spritz.

It's usually between 28 to 32 per cent alcohol, so not the strongest but also definitely not the lightest of drinks. Most give a nice tingle down the throat, while still being very refreshing and zesty. While it's served in a shot glass, it's definitely meant to be sipped, enjoying every drop as a digestif after a heavy meal.

### **How we tested**

While it's perfect paired with Italian desserts such as panna cotta, tiramisu and ricotta pie, we prefer our limoncello on its own – and ice cold – so that's how we've tasted the ones featured in this round-up.

Taste can be quite personal and while some prefer their digestif to give a little tingle to the throat, others might want a more citrusy limoncello. This is why we've made sure to include something for all, while still considering the most important things that make a good limoncello: sweet (but not too sweet) with an intensely citrus flavour, leaving the tongue fresh and clean.



**Limoncè limoncello, 500ml £14.51, Masterofmalt.com**

We might be a little biased when it comes to this one – it’s been our family’s go-to limoncello for years and we’ve had it many times before. It’s not just the taste, it’s also the memories of sitting together in the garden after a barbecue, sipping this digestif. That said, its flavour makes it a hard one to compete with.

This limoncello is zesty, fresh, sweet – all you want from this liqueur – and its texture is spot-on. It’s not too watery, but also not syrupy. The taste of alcohol is there, but not so present it makes your throat burn.

The liqueur was introduced more than 35 years ago and is made from the peels of Sicilian “limone di Siracusa”. It’s one of the most loved limoncello’s in the world today. With some added gentian, juniper, dittany, angelica, China bark, summer savoury, thyme and coriander, the company has established a unique recipe.

**Buy now**



**Terra di Limoni limoncello d'Amalfi, 500ml £25.20,  
Marcoalimentari.com**

Marco D'Urso, founder of Marco Alimentari, a small family-run business specialising in quality and authentic Italian food products, said they are particularly proud of this product: "Not only for its superior quality but from where we have sourced it from. We import it from producers in Minori, on the Amalfi coast – where my late father was born. The bottles are each uniquely hand painted in the workshop of this small village."

The result is a beautiful ceramic bottle that you'll want to keep on display long after you've finished its contents. Because of this, we think it makes the perfect gift, as well as a keepsake, and it'd be perfect for holding a couple of fresh or dried flowers, or even a candle, after you finish the limoncello.

Looks aside, we had high expectations for this one, as the Amalfi coast is renowned for its sfusato lemon. We've had the pleasure of visiting the region (as well as Minori) ourselves this summer and have sampled this particular brand there too. The only question was if it would taste as nice on our London balcony (after the holiday goggles had come off) as it did on a terrace on the coast.

As lovely as the bottle is, it does prevent you from seeing the colour and texture of the limoncello. So, if it's the first time

you're purchasing it, it might seem like a bit of a gamble. But, once poured, it's a light-yellow and doesn't look syrupy. It packs more of a punch than some of the others we've tested (such as the Pallini or Santa Marta), and it's refreshing, juicy and still sweet, thanks to the region's beloved lemon. We're still fans, even when the scenery in which we're sipping has changed.

**Buy now**



**Mamma Mia! limoncello, 700ml £27.45, [Masterofmalt.com](https://www.masterofmalt.com)**

First of all, we love the branding and the oddly shaped bottle – although this does make pouring with one hand a little more difficult. However, it also means it's a nice one to keep around after polishing off the contents, which are made in Puglia with Femminello der Gargano lemons. The same family in Rodi del Gargano has hand-picked these lemons since 1850, and the brand uses only natural ingredients and less sugar – which you can really taste in comparison with some of the others we tested.

Though less sweet than some, it's still very fresh and zesty. The texture is a little more watery, which we appreciated, as it makes the drink less sticky overall. It also didn't have as much of a tingle down the throat as some of the others. This made it a very smooth drink (maybe even a little too smooth).

On [the brand's own website](https://www.mammamia.com) you can find a bunch of inspiration for how to include this liqueur in various cocktails as well as

desserts. All we can say is: gimme, gimme, gimme!

**Buy now**



**St. Ives limecello, 500ml £22.50, [Masterofmalt.com](http://Masterofmalt.com)**

At first glance, we could already tell this is not your average limoncello. The bottle (which features a beautiful label) contains a cloudy liquid, very different from the others we've tested. This is because, while most brands use only the peel of the lemon, St. Ives uses the whole fruit.

This not only generates less waste, it also makes for a very distinctive flavour. We will admit, this pour is probably not everyone's cup of tea, and if you expect a regular limoncello you'll be very surprised upon your first sip. But the more we sipped, the more we loved its character – it really is one of a kind.

The liqueur's structure reminded us a bit of organic apple juice, as it's quite cloudy and needs a good shake before every pour. When opening the bottle, we immediately smelled the sourness of the fruit, which you can also clearly detect when sipping. It tastes a lot like lemon juice, which gives this drink a very natural feeling. It's a refreshing contrast to a more-traditional limoncello and it reminded us of the freshly squeezed lemonade we've had in Italy. We also think it would make for a very refreshing limoncello spritz, as it would make it less sweet.

**Buy now**



**Tosolini limoncello liquor, 700ml £20.45, [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)**

When Giuseppe (Bepi) Tosolini founded his namesake distillery in 1943, it only focussed on grappa. At the time, it was a cheap spirit mostly drunk by workers, and Giuseppe set out to make a higher-quality version, revolutionising how the drink is viewed world-wide.

Now, the company has multiple distilleries and has ventured into the world of limoncello, using its grappa as the base.

For the limoncello, both green and yellow peels of Amalfi and Sicilian lemons are used – these are infused with grappa and distilled. The drink has a zesty smell to it and a slightly brighter yellow coloured than some of the others we've sampled.

It's very zesty and packed with lemon juice – while we liked it, this might be a little too citrusy for some. Its flavours are sharp, but don't linger too long, so you'll inevitably need a top up.

**Buy now**





**Pallini limoncello liqueur, 500ml £14.50, [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)**

If you've ever visited Rome or the region around it, chances are you've come across this bottle. The Pallini family has crafted this natural blend since 1875 from sfusato lemons that are exclusively found along the Amalfi coast, and it's the only lemon you can actually bite and eat the peel from, as it's sweet rather than bitter. Pallini is one of Rome's oldest companies in the drinks industry, and best known in Italy for this limoncello.

Once opened, you smell sweet lemon aromas, but also a distinctive alcohol smell. It's one of the sweeter options we've tested, and its texture is creamier too – which you can already see while it's still in the bottle. It's well-balanced and we appreciate the zesty flavours that lingered. While it is sweet, it's not sickly, thanks to some earthy notes. This is a classic that won't disappoint.

**Buy now**



**Villa Massa limoncello, 500ml £17.25, [Thewhiskyexchange.com](https://www.thewhiskyexchange.com)**

At 30 per cent, this is one of the stronger limoncello's we've sampled, and we can confirm it's not for the faint-hearted. Upon opening, you can already smell the difference, compared with some of the sweeter ones we've tried.

The Massa family created their home-made limoncello recipe in 1890, using the ovale di Sorrento – a lemon that grows in the Campania region (near Naples). Villa Massa was founded in 1991 and was the first company to produce and sell limoncello in Italy and around the world. The recipe hasn't changed, and only natural ingredients are used for a proper taste of Italy.

We found the taste to be a little overwhelming when following a sweeter limoncello, but on our next sip we really enjoyed it. It packs more of a punch than others in this round-up, and we could really feel the tingle down our throat but, when served ice-cold, you can still appreciate its sweetness.

**Buy now**



**Luxardo limoncello, 700ml £15.95, [Thewhiskyexchange.com](http://Thewhiskyexchange.com)**

This natural, artisanal product is still made with the family recipe first introduced in 1905 – albeit it was altered slightly in 2010, to include 25 per cent more lemons.

So, perhaps unsurprisingly, its scent is very citrusy and we thought it similar to the Santa Marta one included in this round-up. The juice, peel and pulp of the lemons are all used to create this full-flavoured liqueur, and the finish is a little on the bitter side – definitely one that stands out flavour-wise.

**Buy now**



## Santa Marta limoncello, 500ml £16.50, Waitrose.com

If you prefer a sweet limoncello, this is a great option. For us, it was a little too much – especially when used for a limoncello spritz – but to each their own. It has a lovely sweet, citrusy scent and gives a little burn to the throat when sipping, but it's not too strong. It has a crisp finish but, while we definitely didn't dislike it, for our taste, it just didn't quite hit the spot like some of the others in this round-up.

[Buy now](#)

## The verdict

We can't recommend the [Limoncè limoncello](#) enough – it's been a favourite for years and it's hard to knock it off its throne. It's accessible and really all you want from a limoncello for a good price.

If you're looking for a gift, nothing can beat [the Terra di Limone](#), which will continue to please long after its tasty contents have gone.

For those who are open to trying something a little different, we suggest the [St. Ives limoncello](#). We love how the company uses the entire lemon (rather than just the peel), to tackle waste, and the result of it really is something special.

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# ON THIS DAY



Steffi Graf on this day in 1988 became the fifth person to complete the Grand Slam in the same calendar year (Getty)

**1669:** Henrietta Maria, French wife of Charles I of England, died near Paris. Henrietta Street, London WC2, is named after her.

**1855:** The Russian Black Sea base of Sebastopol fell to Anglo-French forces after an 11-month siege.

**1891:** “Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-De-Ay”, the song that rocked Victorian England in the 1890s, was written by a Canadian ex-bandsman named Henry J Sayers and copyrighted in New York. But it was

not original, more than 80 years before a tune called “Ta-Rada-Boom-Di-E” had been published in Austria. Sayers admitted he had borrowed it, he heard it played in a brothel in Missouri.

**1897:** Marlborough Street Police Court in London fined taxi driver George Smith £1, making him the first person in Britain to be convicted for drink-driving. He drank three glasses of beer and drove his electric taxi on the pavement in Bond Street.

**1945:** Vidkun Quisling, the “Puppet” premier of Norway during the Second World War, was sentenced to death for collaboration with the Nazis and was executed on 24 October.

**1965:** Yale University published a map purporting to show that the Vikings discovered America in the 11th century.

**1981:** Picasso’s anti-war mural *Guernica* returned to Spain after 40 years of custodianship in the US. Picasso refused to allow the painting to be shown in Spain until the restoration of democracy.

**1988:** German tennis player Steffi Graf became only the fifth person to complete the Grand Slam, winning the four top women’s tennis tournaments in the same calendar year when she beat Argentinian Gabriella Sabatini to win the US Open.

**On this day last year:** Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly won the best TV presenter prize at the National Television Awards for a 20th consecutive time.

## **Birthdays**

**Jose Feliciano**, singer/guitarist, 77; **Judy Geeson**, actor, 74; **Joe Perry**, rock musician (Aerosmith), 72; **Amy Irving**, actor, 69; **Carol Decker**, singer, 65; **Siobhan Fahey**, singer, 64; **Colin Firth**, actor, 62; **Guy Ritchie**, director, 54; **Tim Stimpson**, rugby union player, 49; **Ryan Phillippe**, actor, 48.

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INDEPENDENT

10 SEPTEMBER 2022



# CULTURE

FROM COMMENT TO CELEBRITY PROFILES, WE EXPLORE THE WEEK IN ARTS

## LAURA WHITMORE

*'You forget how young they are  
in Love Island. We're allowed  
to make mistakes'*







# ‘If I do the same thing daily, I am never gonna get better’

The departing host of ‘Love Island’ talks to **Jessie Thompson** about online complaints, duty of care and her friend Caroline Flack, plus a career leap into the unknown on the West End



Whitmore: ‘I just want to get better at what I do’ (PA)

Laura Whitmore loves the drama. Literally. She’s just announced her exit stage left from *Love Island*; now the jaunty presenter is taking to the West End. We’re discussing how three years of

grilling newly minted influencers on live telly equips you for the stage. “There’s definitely a similar skill set when you do live...” – she pauses, raises her eyebrows, says with a flourish – “*drama*. Drama in everything I do!” Fresh from crowning Ekin-Su and Davide – christened “mum and dad” by the internet for being besotted one minute, bickering the next – as this year’s champs, Whitmore is treading the boards in *2:22 A Ghost Story*, in the same role that nabbed Lily Allen an Olivier nomination earlier this year. It was her husband Iain Stirling, he of the “TerrrNIGHTTTT” *Love Island* voiceovers, who first told her she’d nail the part. “I was like, ‘Whaaaat! There’s no way I’d remember all those lines!’”

Aside from *Love Island*, Whitmore has been a steadily rising figure on TV and radio for the past decade, having presented ITV2’s *I’m a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!* sister show from 2011 to 2016, and hosting her own Sunday morning radio show on BBC Radio 5 Live from 2018. But now, after leaving her 5 Live show, too, this is a time of change for Whitmore. When it comes to new opportunities, she’s a proponent of “opening it to the universe that the right thing comes around when you want it to, and when you can do it”. Alongside performing in *2:22 A Ghost Story*, she’s making a true crime podcast with Stirling and putting the final touches to a new ITV documentary series, *Laura Whitmore Investigates*. Oh, and her book, *No One Can Change Your Life Except For You* (the title is her life motto, she says) has just been published in paperback. “I’m not gonna lie. I haven’t had many days off!” she jokes. But *Love Island*, which achieved its highest viewing figures for three years this summer, was her most high-profile gig yet, and many were surprised when she walked away.

“For me, it was a show that I kind of fell into. Not in a way that I ever would want to,” she explains. Whitmore took over presenting duties when Caroline Flack stepped down in 2020, after being charged with assault; Whitmore continued in the role after Flack took her own life in February of that year. The show had “parameters”, which Whitmore seems to have found creatively limiting. “I just felt like there was only so much that

you can do in a show like that,” she explains. “And also the frustration, I guess, when someone’s like, ‘Oh, you do 10 minutes on a show’ and I’m like, ‘Do you have any idea how many *hours* that takes?!’” Other projects were coming along, plus she wanted to go out on a high. “I feel like this year *might* be one of the best years of all time. I don’t know if it can get better than that!” she laughs. This year’s success means ITV2 is going big again, with an annual double whammy. “I think now with twice a year, it kind of will take up your whole life. Your whole life to *watch* it. Can you imagine working on it!”



Whitmore took over presenting ‘Love Island’ in 2020 (ITV)

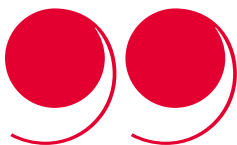
In a statement announcing her departure, Whitmore paid tribute to Flack, writing on Instagram: “I was only planning to fill in for Caroline for a series and it turned into three series. I hope I did you proud Caroline.” I wonder if, given the circumstances, Flack was often on her mind as she worked on the show. “Caroline was more than *Love Island*,” she says straight away. “She loved that show so much. And I know she was always a huge supporter of me doing that show to step in for her.” The pair had been friends for a long time, something that’s very distinct in her mind from the job. “They’re kind of two separate things, personally, if I’m honest with you. And she had such an incredible career. And should still.”



It's hard to imagine how, in the age of social media, any person now copes with hosting such a high-profile show. It's certainly not for the faint-hearted: the online opprobrium can be constant. The landscape has changed significantly since Whitmore started her career as a presenter on MTV News. "When I was first started doing MTV, if someone had an issue with you, you didn't really know about it, you'd just carry on and do your job," she says. But it's everywhere. "The more successful you are, you get it more. I only get a tiny bit of it, but you look at people like Olivia Wilde, and people like that – what she's got the last week – it seems the more successful you get or the more you do, the more people want to talk about you, the more they'll throw negativity your way." People do seem fascinated with Whitmore's earnings, though. She made a TikTok correcting some of the criticisms she received on *Love Island*, including about her salary. "People care a lot about how much money I make," she says – and she hasn't observed the same focus on the earnings of her male counterparts. "Even today I saw in the press about how much money I'm apparently making in the West End. I'm like, I don't know if they did that about [previous *2:22 A Ghost Story* star] Tom Felton?"



**I want to constantly push and challenge myself**



This year's *Love Island* was noteworthy for another reason: the series received 1,500 complaints of alleged misogyny, including the perceived "bullying" by male contestants towards Tasha Ghouri, who was repeatedly singled out in a game of Snog, Marry, Pie. But some of the complaints are amusingly petty,

Whitmore explains: “I got a complaint because I’m so selfish, I make the whole show about me because I walk so slow. Someone actually wrote in! I walk normal pace. They slow it down!” Some things, she says, you just have to take with a pinch of salt. “It’s an entertainment show. So I think if you’re using *Love Island* as being exactly what real life is, then you’re in trouble.” (Ofcom ruled that the “bullying” behaviour was “not shown in a positive light” and didn’t pursue the complaints.)

The show, though, has comprehensively overhauled its duty of care and aftercare protocols after receiving criticism, particularly after former contestants Sophie Gradon and Mike Thalassitis took their own lives. Whitmore wasn’t a part of the conversations about these very serious issues – understandably, they fall under the purview of the producers rather than the presenter. “I know they’ve upped the duty of care. I think they can continue to work on it, personally. And I think they will.”

The show can also be a force for good; she mentions a friend who told her the show inspired useful conversations with her 13-year-old daughter. “If you have young people watching the show, maybe use it as a chance to go: do you see that? Do you agree with that? What do you think went wrong there? So I think it’s important maybe to have those conversations, but also *Love Island* should not be raising your children.” As for the Islanders who go in with a suitcase and come out to gazillions of new followers and a changed life, we should go easier on them: “You forget how young they are in there. Some people go in there and come out and go, ‘Fuck, I was a dick. I’m sorry’. And that’s OK! We’re allowed to make mistakes. We’re human. That’s all right.”



Telling contestants the bad news on 'Love Island' (ITV)

Whitmore has the kind of springy, wholesome enthusiasm that only presenters of popular live TV shows seem to possess. She's speaking to me at the end of a long day of rehearsals, Zooming from a seemingly windowless room. "You can probably gather... this is not home." She's emphatic and energetic; even when she's leaning on an elbow to prop herself up, star tattoo showing on her wrist, it's as though she could leap to her feet and do a live link at the drop of a hat. But crack open that zippy, colourful carapace and you'll find an iron focus that explains her success. "I just want to get better at what I do. If I did the same thing every day, I'm never gonna get better. And I just want to constantly push myself and challenge myself."

The public does not know her as an actor, and she "definitely" feels the pressure that added scrutiny inevitably brings. "I think, sometimes within the theatre world, [or] even just as a theatregoer, there can be snobbery," she says. But acting has been in her life for some time. She was a student at the Leinster School of Music and Drama in the Republic of Ireland and took a course at Rada in London; later, she performed opposite Shane Richie in a 2017 stage adaptation of Peter James's novel *Not Dead Enough*. In 2020, she wrote and starred in her first short film, *Sadhbh*, about a struggling young mother, and she got an acting agent earlier this year.

Now that she's free from sending lovelorn youngsters on Jet2 flights back to Stansted, she can start to spread her wings. Theatre has always been "a love, a passion", she explains. "I mean, the West End is *kiiiiind* of the dream, isn't it?" Whitmore, 37, grew up in County Wicklow and says she first got into drama because "believe it or not, I was shy and quiet growing up, and my mum was worried about how quiet I was". She studied journalism at university and joined the drama group as a way of getting to know people, going on to play Antigone and – not wanting to jinx anything – what she describes as "Lady M in the Scottish play".



Felix Scott, Laura Whitmore, Tamsin Carroll and Matt Willis star in '2:22 – A Ghost Story' (Simon Turtle)

Danny Robins' 2:22 is now on its fourth cast and looking like a firm fixture of the West End scene. It's about a young couple who have just had a baby and bought a doer-upper, before things start to get creepy – every night at 2:22am, Whitmore's character Jenny hears strange goings on, which her husband dismisses. The show has been a smash since opening last year; it's the kind of unadulterated, scary fun that feels like a school trip for adults (plus gin). "I've had my cousin go, 'Can I come?' And I'm like well, no, you're five," Whitmore says, droll.

Like Jenny, Whitmore is a new mother; she and Stirling's daughter was born in March last year. But given the subject matter, it feels a bit silly to ask if Whitmore relates to the

character more than that. “I’m being haunted by ghosts!” she jokes, before adding that all of the cast have kids of their own and are bringing their own experiences to it. “There’s this juxtaposition of fear that Jenny has, that her house is being haunted, but also she’s trying to be strong for her child. The need to protect, not wanting to look like this crazy, overtired mum, but also wanting to speak her truth.” The directors Matthew Dunster and Isabel Marr have encouraged her to make the part her own, in part by incorporating her Irish background. “It’s been lovely to play around with that. I say that before I’ve even stood on the stage. So god knows what will happen when I’m onstage.”

Whitmore is now up and running at the theatre – after the first preview this week, she posted on Instagram that it was “one of the best experiences of my life!!!” – and she’s keen to keep acting. But also... she’ll go with it. She returns to that philosophy of right things, right time. “The universe just sometimes throws things at ya.” We’ll see her documentary series, in which she’ll explore sex, power and the internet, before the end of the year; she’ll have a week off from the play in October to fly out to America and finish it. So is she going Louis Theroux on us? “No one can be Louis Theroux, except Louis Theroux! I don’t rap as well as him,” she jokes. “I’m just gonna be Laura. Laura Whitmore.” And then she sounds serious – and satisfied. “It’s pushing me, which is what I want. When I get to the stage of doing the same thing, and I can’t really push myself, or I’m not allowed to push myself any further... then I have to change things up.”

*‘2:22 A Ghost Story’ is at the Criterion Theatre, London, until 8 January*

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# ‘A rude song gets more notice than a clean song’

It's been 50 years since reggae pioneer Jimmy Cliff helped bring Jamaican culture to the world with his starring role in 'The Harder They Come'. He tells **Kevin EG Perry** about his album 'Refugees' and why it's 'time to put out new music'



Cliff: 'I'm still chasing that Oscar!' (Vision Addict)

In 1970, Jimmy Cliff found himself at a crossroads. At the age of 26, the Jamaican singer-songwriter was already one of the



pioneers and rising stars of reggae, having enjoyed top 10 hits in the UK with his joyous hymn to unity “Wonderful World, Beautiful People” and a spine-tingling cover of Cat Stevens’ “Wild World”. He was in London, preparing for an extensive tour, when he received an offer to star in a low-budget movie back home. “I said, ‘You know, I’m really glad to be here in Europe,’” recalls Cliff, now 78, his voice still rich and mellifluous as it sings down the line from his home in Miami. “It’s not wise to run all over the place and do something like that.”

Perry Henzell, the writer-director who wanted the musician for his film, flew to Britain to change Cliff’s mind. “He said one sentence to me that stopped me in my tracks,” remembers Cliff. “He said, ‘I think you’re a better actor than a singer’. I said to myself: wow! Nobody ever said that to me before, and I had always thought that! Somebody’s reading my mind! It happened like that. I cancelled the European tour that I was planning, and went to do the movie.”

*The Harder They Come*, back in UK cinemas this month to mark its 50th anniversary, became an instant classic when it was released on 5 September 1972. Rapturously received within Jamaica – where it was one of the first films to show the realities of life on the island and have characters speak in patois – it has also been credited with helping to introduce reggae to a global audience. The film’s indelible soundtrack brims with classics from many of the artists who helped shape the genre, including Toots and the Maytals, Desmond Dekker and of course Cliff himself, who contributed “You Can Get it if You Really Want”, “Sitting Here in Limbo” and “Many Rivers to Cross”, as well as the unforgettable title track.



Cliff as the outlaw Ivanhoe Martin in 'The Harder They Come' (International/New World/Kobal/Shutterstock)

Despite Henzell's confidence in Cliff's magnetic screen presence, the singer had little prior acting experience. Born James Chambers on 30 July 1944 in Saint James, a suburban parish in the northwest of Jamaica, Cliff had previously only been in school plays. He moved to Kingston with his father at the age of 14, hoping to find his way into the music industry. These experiences worked their way into the film. Cliff's character, Ivanhoe Martin, travels to Kingston from his rural home, and his attempts to become a singer are illustrated by scenes of him writing and performing "The Harder They Come". After he's ripped off by a producer, he turns to a life of crime. This side of the character was drawn from the real Ivanhoe Martin, a notorious Jamaican outlaw from the Forties who became a folk hero known as "the original rude boy" after escaping from prison and going on the run. Cliff sought out tales of his escapades in Kingston. "I remember I'd go to an old barber shop and say, 'Tell me something about Ivanhoe Martin,'" he says. "Everybody would tell me a different story, and I'd sit and take in all they imparted to me."

Although Cliff's performance was celebrated, after the film was released he went back to his day job. "I went into it thinking, I'm going to do this piece of work with my life, and when I'm finished I'll go back to touring," he explains. "That's how I

looked at it.” That’s what he did. In the 45 years between 1967 and 2012, Cliff released a staggering 32 records. Now he’s returning with *Refugees*, his first new album in a decade. “It’s been far too long,” he says firmly. “It was time to put out new music.”

As the title suggests, the impetus to make the record came partly from the many ongoing refugee crises around the world. Its title track is a political anthem in the lineage of Cliff’s 1970 single “Vietnam”, which Bob Dylan once named “the best protest song ever”. It was inspired, Cliff says, by “what’s happening all over the globe, especially in my home country Africa”. He pauses. “Some people don’t like when I say that.” That the whole continent of Africa is his home country? “Yes, that’s what I say,” he confirms, spelling out his Pan-Africanist belief in the unity of the continent and its diaspora. “It’s my country. In your ignorance, you’re drawing lines all over the country. That’s so sad.”

The song marks Cliff’s first collaboration with Wyclef Jean, whose group Fugees took their name from an abbreviation of “refugees”, and who has described Cliff as “one of my greatest inspirations”. Cliff can’t remember exactly how long the pair have known each other, although he points out that it must be at least since 2010 because that was the year Wyclef inducted him into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. “We knew each other from around that time and took a liking to each other,” he says. “We love and respect each other’s talent.” To mark the album’s release Cliff has teamed up with the UN Refugee Agency to collate information on the best ways to help refugees, through donations and advocacy. This is Cliff’s way of leveraging his music to change the world in increments. “I like to start out with small things,” he says. “Even though I think big.”



In the lobby of Philadelphia's WMMR radio studios in 1979, shortly before 'being thrown out for lighting up' (MediaPunch/Shutterstock)

While the album deals with plenty of other weighty subjects, including racism and the danger of lusting after money, it has its playful moments too. Cliff chuckles when I ask him about the song "Punus".

"It's what in Jamaica we call a rude song!" he says. The song concerns a couple, Ernest and Mavis. "They eventually get married, and he was hard of hearing," Cliff explains. "So if he and his wife had a quarrel he used to just ignore it and say, [he breaks into a lilting melody] 'I got the punus, and I rub the punus, and woooh!' Because he's hard of hearing, he talks that way." It's a tune Cliff remembers hearing as a young boy. "It wasn't even a song, just some words that we used to sing," he says. "I thought wow, Jimmy Cliff singing a rude song will probably get more notice than if he sings a clean, pretty song." I tell him it's nice to hear a mix of lighter material alongside the heavy topics. "We need balance in life," he agrees. "That's what it's all about."

Cliff has always had a keen ear for a hit record. He recalls walking into the offices of Island Records in London one day early in 1970 and overhearing his publisher playing a demo he didn't recognise. I said, 'Who's that singing?' because the voice

sounded familiar,” Cliff remembers. It was Cat Stevens singing “Wild World”.

“He said, ‘It’s Steve’. We used to call him Steve at the time.” At that point, Stevens was still unsure whether he’d release it. “I thought it was a smash hit!” says Cliff. “I told him I loved the song, and if he didn’t want to record it I would. He said, ‘OK’. I said, ‘When?’ I put him on the spot! I didn’t want him to put it off because he might change his mind. I went into the studio and recorded it the following day. It was a hit, so I was very happy of course, and then Cat Stevens decided to record it himself.”

While “Wild World” gave Cliff a top 10 single, he also had the opposite experience of writing songs that became hits for others. His next single in 1970, the glorious rocksteady track “You Can Get it if You Really Want”, failed to chart in the UK but Desmond Dekker took it to number two just a few weeks later. After all this time, does Cliff still believe you can get it if you really want, if you just try, try and try? He ponders this for a moment. “Most things, of course,” he says finally, although a couple of exceptions spring to mind. “I haven’t had a number one hit [in the UK or US],” he points out. “I had some in Europe but I’d like to get some more number ones, and I always thought of myself as a singer, a songwriter and an actor – so I’m still chasing that Oscar!”

*‘Refugees’ by Jimmy Cliff is out now. ‘The Harder They Come’ is in UK cinemas and is available on BFI Player*

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# Hillary and Meghan provide a peek behind their curtains rather than feminist truths



The former US presidential candidate and the Duchess of Sussex have launched podcasts on similar subjects (Getty)

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**AMANDA WHITING**

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Stop me if you've heard this one before. Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea Clinton, are sitting on a park bench on the grounds of the Palais Royal. The former secretary of state and US presidential nominee turns to her daughter and asks: "Do you know what happens if you drink too much tea in Paris?"

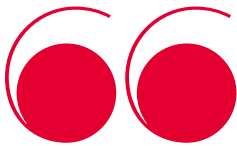
Chelsea, an International Relations DPhil who is also a children's author and global health advocate, appears bewildered. "You're-a-peein'," her mother – once the most powerful woman in politics – tells her with a guffaw. Except the real punchline is that this is a scene from their new Apple TV Plus series called *Gutsy*. The joke, if you think about it, is that this is what one of the savviest and most successful people in American life has been reduced to doing for work.

Across the eight-episode series, which made its debut yesterday, the Clintons tour the globe speaking to different kinds of "gutsy" women, some of whom are so much gutsier than others it makes a mockery of the #girlboss-era watchword. In the first episode, for example, the "gutsy" women are stand-up comics, including Wanda Sykes and Amy Schumer, who talk about performing to hostile audiences, among other topics. In the second episode, they are women who escaped violent lives of political extremism or lost their own children to hate crimes. The point is to explain all the different, inspiring ways that women can be bold. The audience for this show, I fear, is what little is left of the Pantsuit Nation, the zeitgeisty Facebook group of HRC supporters that formed during the 2016 election.



*Gutsy* is a lot like the Duchess of Sussex's new Spotify podcast *Archetypes* – another show in which a powerful woman speaks to other powerful women about the labels they've overcome on the way to becoming so powerful. So far, three episodes have been released: Serena Williams on “ambition”, Mariah Carey on “diva” and Mindy Kaling on “singleton”.

Don't get me wrong: these aren't *terrible* shows. It's sort of fascinating to watch Hillary and Chelsea Clinton figure out what useful thing they can do with the resources they have – namely, fame and good intentions. It's more or less the same journey Meghan – whose mellifluous speaking voice I found profoundly calming – is on following her exit from royal life.



**Feminism may be the shows' shared theme but it's not what the shows are about**



But neither are they the energising calls to action they strive to be. The guests – as accomplished as they are – can't distract from the fact that the Clintons and Meghan aren't particularly suited to their new line of work. They don't have the journalistic instincts to challenge their guests or Oprah's uncanny ability to extract tears and secrets. The sad takeaway at the end of every episode is that show business, much like the rest of the world, doesn't know what to do with these women – women who've been tagged as “unlikeable” despite having few obvious flaws.

And a fixation with “unlikeability” is, at the end of the day, these series' shared weakness. Instead of grappling meaningfully with

misogyny and inequality in its most pernicious forms, they give us conversations about name-calling. Meghan wants to stop being labelled unlikeable not simply because it's sexist – which it is! – but because actually she really is very likeable, if only you'd get to know her like her friends do. In her conversation with Williams, Meghan alludes to the text message conversations they've already had concerning the issues they're chatting about on-air. *Archetypes* isn't just a chance to get to know Williams more, but to *be* her. Which is to say, to *be* the person who gets to hear Meghan's innermost, highly likeable thoughts.



Mindy Kaling and Meghan Markle recording 'Archetypes'  
(Mindy Kaling/Instagram)

Because it's as impossible to ignore the transparent reputation rehab at work here as it is to believe that celebs interrogating feminist buzzwords can change a regular person's real experience. The appeal of these shows isn't the content. It's the peek behind the curtain at the women asking the questions and (selectively) making personal revelations. When Meghan hosted Williams, it was the previously undisclosed story of a fire that broke out in her son Archie's nursery that led the next day's news coverage. The most compelling part of *Gutsy* is Chelsea's frequent discussion of her childhood, which was marked with a pervasive sense of hatred unique to the White House jungle gym. Feminism may be the shows' shared theme, but it's not what the shows are *about*.

Some people are born to host – mostly Oprah. But others have lived too much of their extraordinary lives in the public eye to disappear into the role. Every question these women ask about womanhood feels as pointedly thrilling as the answers they get. Some people, no matter how far they're willing to go to host the interview – like, say, to Paris, with their daughter, to interview clowns – don't know how to stop being the talk show's guest.

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# MAKING IT BIG

Twenty-five years after Paul Thomas Anderson's luminous 'Boogie Nights' was released, **Tom Fordy** speaks to the 'original' Dirk Diggler about the filming of a modern classic



Money shot: Heather Graham as Rollergirl in 'Boogie Nights' (New Line/Kobal/Shutterstock)

When Michael Stein, an actor, stand-up and friend of filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson, visited the set of Anderson's pornography opus *Boogie Nights* in 1997, he noticed a cast



member was missing. “I said,” recalls Stein, ““Hey where’s Burt?”” Burt Reynolds was playing Jack Horner, a classy porno director and mentor to Mark Wahlberg’s up-and-coming porn stud, Dirk Diggler. The former Hollywood alpha would ultimately be Oscar-nominated for the role, but on the set, he was peeved. Anderson, chain-smoking American Spirit cigarettes with irritation, turned to Stein: “He’s in the trailer, man... He doesn’t want to hang out with us.”

Refusing to come out of his trailer was one thing; elsewhere on the shoot, it almost came to blows – Reynolds took a swing at the 26-year-old Anderson. “I wasn’t there for that,” says Stein. “I heard about it though!”

Like the *Goodfellas* of porn, *Boogie Nights* is about the rise and fall of the massively endowed Dirk Diggler, a naive – daft, even – youngster in porn’s golden age. In Diggler’s own words – and before the cocaine takes hold – he’s a big bright shining star. The film is also the story of how Paul Thomas Anderson – a strong-willed, creatively assured upstart – emerged as a filmmaker-of-the-moment, on a spectrum that includes Quentin Tarantino, Steven Soderbergh, David Fincher and Kevin Smith. All infused Nineties cinema with a cutting edge, indie-minded cool.

Twenty-five years after it premiered at the Toronto Film Festival (on 11 September 1997), *Boogie Nights* remains sumptuous filmmaking, with stunningly crafted characters. Industry players didn’t understand it, though. Not least of all Reynolds, who reportedly fired his agent after clashing with Anderson on the set. Wahlberg, who became a major Hollywood star in its wake, has also had an erratic relationship with the film – the devout Catholic has since said that he hopes God forgives him for starring in it, though he’s also boasted about still keeping in his possession Dirk’s giant prosthetic penis.

Anderson’s film was born from his real-life fascination with porn, beginning life as a short mockumentary – *The Dirk Diggler Story* – that he directed in 1988 when he was just 17. Stein, who has a small cameo in *Boogie Nights*, played the original Dirk. Anderson’s interest in the porn world – an X-rated origin story,



if you like – is almost apocryphal. There are various accounts: that he discovered his father's porn stash aged nine and watched *The Opening of Misty Beethoven*; that he was obsessed with warehouse-like buildings that had no signage, suggesting something secret and sexy inside; or that he spied a suspected porn shoot across the street from his grandmother's. In that story, the house had blacked out windows and light stands on the lawn, leading Anderson to watch many, many pornos afterwards trying to find it on-screen. As Anderson grew up in the real Seventies and Eighties porn hub of the San Fernando Valley, all of those stories are probably true. "The Valley was the epicentre," says Stein. "The Hollywood of the porn industry."

Stein first met Anderson when they were dating the daughters of studio executive Peter Guber. Anderson called Stein with a proposition: "I've got an idea for a short film. It's about a porno star. I haven't written it yet, but would you play him?" Stein had studied acting, but so far nothing had, erm, come up. Soon enough, he was playing Dirk Diggler – filming in a motel on Ventura Boulevard "wearing leopard skin underwear".

For *The Dirk Diggler Story*, Anderson credited a number of influences, most obviously the 1981 documentary *Exhausted*, about legendarily equipped adult icon John Holmes. "The Babe Ruth of that industry," jokes Stein. *Exhausted*, directed by porn star Julia St Vincent, is a pompous, laughable profile of a star in decline. Anderson once called it "just the funniest, saddest thing", and gave everyone a copy on the set of *Boogie Nights*. It pointed to the fact that Anderson's porn fascination wasn't just about sex, but the campy, ramshackle aesthetic and storytelling of the genre.

Like the best mockumentaries, *The Dirk Diggler Story* is an exercise in blinkered delusion. Characters possess an inflated sense of self, tragically unaware at how they present on camera. It's full of sly, knowing humour and farcical moments. See Jack Horner, then played by Robert Ridgely, praying to not be struck down by the curse of premature ejaculation. The original Dirk meets a tragic fate – he dies of an overdose. Cue a hilarious, weepy montage of his life and career.



Star turns: Burt Reynolds as Jack Horner and Mark Wahlberg as Dirk Diggler (Shutterstock)

At one time, Anderson envisioned *Boogie Nights* as a feature-length mockumentary, before realising he was “blatantly ripping off *Spinal Tap*”, he’d go on to say. His script, then a weighty tome of 180 pages, had already been rejected. A script reader at Fox rated both its concept and storyline as “poor”. Anderson was already on the defensive with studio brass. His debut feature, the gambling thriller *Sydney* – starring Philip Baker Hall and Gwyneth Paltrow – had been taken off of him in post-production and renamed *Hard Eight* (though he effectively stole it back). It was Michael De Luca, president of production at New Line Cinema, who championed *Boogie Nights*. Less convinced was New Line founder Bob Shaye, who was wary of Anderson’s phonebook-sized screenplay. Anderson saw the film as a three-hour, adults-only epic rated NC-17 – a kiss-of-death for any movie, meaning no one under the age of 17 was allowed to see it. De Luca had to cut his ambitions down to size. Anderson agreed to make *Boogie Nights* under three hours, with a more box office-friendly R rating.

For Anderson, *Boogie Nights* was about “the surrogate family”, he told interviewer Charlie Rose upon its release. Dirk begins life as a busboy named Eddie Adams, who’s kicked out of home by his miserable, browbeating mother (Joanna Gleason). But his special talents – a 13-inch penis and being really, really good at

sex – are discovered by Jack Horner, who welcomes him into a family of porno misfits. Dirk becomes an award-winning sensation and creates his own on-screen porn character – Brock Landers, based on John Holmes’s screen alter-ego Johnny Wadd – before descending into a cocaine-fuelled nightmare.

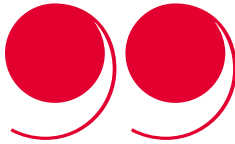
*Boogie Nights*, ultimately, is about love, acceptance, and finding your place in the world. Dirk’s foxy co-star Amber Waves (Julianne Moore) is a mother in need of children – having lost custody of her real child – while young porn stars Dirk and Rollergirl (Heather Graham) are children in need of a mother. Set assistant Scotty (Philip Seymour Hoffman) is a childlike oaf who craves Dirk’s affection. Fellow porn actor Reed Rothchild (the ever-brilliant John C Reilly) competes with Dirk in hilarious macho posturing (“What do you bench?”), but the friendship is based on a near-homoerotic admiration. Even Don Cheadle’s Buck Swope is just trying to fit in by finding a style that suits him – from cowboy to Egyptian chic. “Wear what you dig,” advises Luis Guzmán’s nightclub manager, who believes his true calling is to star in porn films as the “ultimate Latin lover”.

Cinematographer Robert Elswit, who won an Oscar in 2008 for Anderson’s *There Will Be Blood*, wanted to make *Boogie Nights* for its deeper themes. “You’re so full of shit,” said his wife. “You just want to see the naked girls.”



**The first half of the movie is all fun and games. But the back-half of the movie is a sort of punishment for those fun and games**

*Paul Thomas Anderson*



Anderson initially wanted Leonardo DiCaprio for Dirk. The fresh-faced DiCaprio was interested but opted instead to make *Titanic*, later confessing that passing the part up was his biggest professional regret. He was courteous about it in 1997, though, recommending Anderson meet with Wahlberg, his co-star in *The Basketball Diaries* two years earlier. It was a risky proposition. Wahlberg was still best known for his ludicrous rap persona Marky Mark, and his Calvin Klein underwear ads. He only read the first 30 pages of *Boogie Nights* before meeting Anderson, whom he told: “I know I’m going to love the rest of it, but I just want to make sure before I really fall in love with this and want to do it, that you don’t want me because I’m the guy who will get in his underwear”.

Stein recalls some concerns. He had “heard some things” about Wahlberg. “I was worried that Mark was going to be hip-hop Mark,” he says. “I met him and he was so nice – a great guy.” The brilliance of Wahlberg’s Diggler, says Stein, is the vulnerability. Indeed, Dirk may best be remembered and certainly most quoted for his impotent, cocaine meltdown – “You’re not the king of me, I’m the fucking king of Dirk!” – but the crux of Dirk is that he’s essentially a boy. See him crying as his mother kicks him out (“Please, don’t be mean to me!”), his constant wonderment at the world around him – oblivious to its sleaze –

or showing off his bachelor pad, adorned with the naff spoils of newfound fortune. “It has that karate feel,” he says about the bedroom decor.

Actors up for the role of Jack Horner included Albert Brooks, Sydney Pollack and Bill Murray. Anderson also spoke to Warren Beatty. “Eventually what I started to figure out is that Warren really wanted to play Dirk Diggler,” Anderson said. The part of Rollergirl almost went to Drew Barrymore, who attended a screening of *Hard Eight* with Burt Reynolds that was amusingly ruined by Ron Jeremy, then a top porn star, who fell asleep and snored all the way through it. Jeremy ended up acting as a consultant on the set of the film, introducing Anderson to the inner workings of the porn biz.

Other real-life porn stars appeared in the film, including Veronica Hart and Nina Hartley, who played the adulterous porn star wife of Horner’s assistant director, Little Bill (William H Macy). In the film’s best running gag, Little Bill finds his wife in various trysts with other men. “You’re embarrassing me,” she tells Bill – while she has sex in front of a group of onlookers. It’s a joke that eventually sours. Little Bill’s demise on New Year 1980 is quietly, unexpectedly devastating: a continuous Steadicam take of Little Bill discovering his wife with yet another man, walking to his car to retrieve his gun, and killing his wife, her lover and then himself. It’s the point at which *Boogie Nights* takes a dark, perilous turn. “The first half of the movie is all fun and games,” Anderson said in 1997. “But the back-half of the movie is a sort of punishment for those fun and games.”



Amber Waves (Julianne Moore) embraces Dirk (Shutterstock)

Like the real John Holmes, Dirk develops a dangerous cocaine habit, one that leaves him unable to perform. It results in a poolside shoving match between Dirk and Jack. The scene was filmed a day after a real bust-up between Reynolds and Anderson. Accounts vary on what caused the fracas: either Reynolds hated the film or felt disrespected by his director.

“I don’t want to put myself in the mind of Burt Reynolds but Paul is so strong-minded and Burt is a strong-minded guy,” Stein says. “I know that because I know other friends of his. I could see that happening.” Stein jokes that Reynolds could have been method acting. “Who knows, maybe Burt was doing some Daniel Day [Lewis]?! He needed to take a swing at Dirk in the pool scene.”

The latter half of *Boogie Nights* is an excruciating descent into desperation and stupidity: gay prostitution, a drug robbery gone wrong and a failed attempt at pop stardom. In a scene carried over from *Exhausted*, Dirk sings – if you can call it singing – “The Touch”, originally from the animated *Transformers* movie. “I saw the soundtrack in this 99-cents bin and I thought, ‘I’ve got to have this. This is too good,’” recalled Anderson.

The film’s climactic robbery is pulse-thumping, nerve-jangling lunacy, with a shotgun-wielding Alfred Molina – wearing Speedos, freebasing cocaine, and singing “Jessie’s Girl” – and a



mute Chinese boy throwing firecrackers. Molina's ears were plugged to dampen the sound, while Anderson shot the very real nerves of Wahlberg, Reilly, and actor Thomas Jane – first with firecrackers, then, after they'd got used to the firecrackers, a starting pistol.

Unlike John Holmes, who died of Aids complications in 1988, Dirk gets his redemption. Anderson decided to save his money shot for the final seconds: the reveal of Dirk's 13-inch penis. For Anderson, it was like seeing the shark for the first time in *Jaws*. The prosthetic rubber penis was in fact seven inches – the full-length version looked monstrous on Wahlberg's 5ft 7in frame.

There were months of back-and-forth with the Motion Picture Association of America to get *Boogie Nights*' R rating, and battles with New Line's Bob Shaye over the length of Anderson's cut. Shaye had ammo: preview screening test scores were woefully low, causing the marketing executives to lose confidence. The filmmakers wondered if the wrong audience was being recruited.

Producer JoAnne Sellar overheard viewers being rounded with the question: "Do you want to see Mark Wahlberg's penis?" Bob Shaye even did his own edit – it scored marginally worse, helped by Anderson telling people at that preview screening, "This movie sucks. You're gonna hate it."

Officially released on 10 October 1997, *Boogie Nights* made \$26m – a modest hit, though it was nominated for two Academy Awards. Critics were stunned. *The Independent*'s Chris Darke called it "a bravura piece of American filmmaking, up there with *Goodfellas* in scope and scale". In *The New York Times*, Janet Maslin described Anderson as having a "display of talent as big and exuberant as skywriting". Reynolds, reportedly distancing himself from publicity, missed out. "He would've won the Oscar had he not dug such a hole for himself," Wahlberg later told



The original poster artwork for 'Boogie Nights' (New Line Cinema)

*Yahoo*. Reynolds was diplomatic about the film in his autobiography but admitted that he'd "never sat down and watched the whole thing". Reynolds also missed what *Boogie Nights* was to Nineties cinema: a big, bright shining star.

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# WAKE-UP CALL

‘This Morning’ failed to read the room when it came to the impending energy crisis. **Louis Chilton** asks why morning TV is so flimsy when it comes to discussing the big issues



Phillip Schofield on the controversial ‘Spin to Win’ segment of ‘This Morning’ (ITV)

Spin the wheel and win some heating. This was the premise of a segment on ITV’s *This Morning* earlier this week. Hosts Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby stood beside a spinwheel

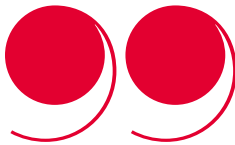
contraption, upon which were marked various monetary values and, on some spaces, the promise of four months' energy bills, paid for by the programme.

The segment was using the impending energy crisis as a topical hook to spice up a routine prize giveaway, but there was something discomfitingly crass about it – made all the worse by the desperation in the phone-in contestant's voice, his audible relief when the dial landed on “bills”. The clip was rightly condemned; words like “dystopian” have been thrown around without hyperbole. On Wednesday, the “household bills” prizes were removed from the Spin to Win competition. But while *This Morning*'s cost of living crisis carnival game may indeed have been a low-rent display of socio-political tone-deafness, it should have come as no surprise to, well, anyone who's ever watched an episode of *This Morning*. The series suffers from the same disease that's running rife throughout our country's morning television ecosystem: a deathly allergy to political sincerity.

Morning shows (such as ITV's *This Morning*, *Good Morning Britain* and *Lorraine*, and Channel 5's *Jeremy Vine*) are designed to appeal to a broad mass market of everyday people. As such, they are obliged to tackle the issues of the moment: Brexit; Covid; the cost of living crisis; Downing Street's manic conveyor belt of increasingly useless prime ministers. But these issues are seldom explored in any real depth, with any of the actual necessary context. We live in a country that is extremely politically fraught. Our institutions are crumbling. Social divides are widening. The crises are piling up. There's anger and frustration everywhere. What good does it do to whip this into froth?



**Refusing to explore the issues with the appropriate heft just means that ill-informed opinions are left unchallenged, and grievances are left to fester**



Even when these daytime talk shows do engage with serious issues, you always get the sense there's someone just off-screen yelling "keep it light!" every five seconds. The fact is, nearly every person watching *This Morning* or *Good Morning Britain* will have strong opinions. About the government. About income inequality. About immigration. About Brexit. Refusing to explore these issues with the appropriate heft just means that ill-informed opinions are left unchallenged, and justified grievances are left to fester.

Part of this comes, of course, from the need for impartiality – or, rather, the need for the illusion of impartiality. The more politically minded morning shows, such as *Jeremy Vine*, will often invite two ideologically polarised guests on to the series, where they will talk through an issue with pendulum-like equivocation. But even when one person clearly has the best argument (the most compassionate; the most fiscally astute; the most fact-based), the format almost always demands some kind of rote "let's agree to disagree" dissolution. The time for spineless fence-sitting has passed. There is no such thing as political neutrality, and it's rhetorically corrosive to pretend otherwise.

These issues were all thrown into the spotlight last Sunday, when comedian Joe Lycett appeared on the BBC morning show

*Sunday with Laura Kuennsberg*. Unlike the other shows discussed above, *Sunday* has an overt political bent: Kuennsberg is the former political head of the BBC. Lycett drew the ire of Conservative politicians and commentators after facetiously pretending to be “extremely right wing” and offering blank, implicitly ludicrous praise of Liz Truss. The accusations flew – that he had cheapened an otherwise dignified format, that comedians should not be invited on to credible adult talk shows.



Joe Lycett on ‘Sunday With Laura Kuennsberg’ (BBC)

But while on a surface level, Lycett’s stunt seems to play into the usual banal, entertainment-first predilections of morning television, the truth is the reverse. The substance of Lycett’s joke – that Truss’s policies, leadership and communication are so abjectly bad that the mere act of praising her cannot possibly be read as sincere – is anything but frivolous. It is humour born from years of mounting political anger. And it derailed the supposed “balance” of the programme’s line-up. How do you argue with a man who is winning simply by agreeing with you?

Frankly, it’s no wonder the Conservative outrage machine shot into action (to the risible extent of mentioning Lycett’s talk-show escapade in parliament). Morning television had, for once, treated this government with the contempt it deserves. If only this were to become a daily occurrence. It’s time broadcasters started really giving people something to wake up to.



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# INSPIRATION STRIKES

From The Independent archive: **Robert Webb** on a 1967 love song sold for \$10,000: Harry Nilsson's 'Without Her'



Gimme shelter: Nilsson released his debut album the same year (Billboard)

Few singer-songwriters have tackled loneliness and loss like Harry Nilsson. His best-known four minutes is a lofty cover of the morbid “Without You”, one of the biggest hits of the Seventies. But the earlier, similarly titled but self-penned “Without Her” is the real pearl.

Back in 1967, Nilsson was working nights in a Los Angeles bank and jobbing as a songwriter during the day. He'd had a couple of

moderate successes, but nothing to write home about. One night he worked the black notes on his piano and out came three extraordinary songs. One was the autobiographical “1941”. Another was a love song, “Without Her”.

“The next day, they came into the office [where I wrote] and I said, 'Listen to what I did last night,’” Nilsson told *Goldmine* magazine a week before his death in 1993. Nilsson played a tape of all three: “They said, 'You wrote those last night?’” Across the hall, a music publisher heard the tape. “He said, ‘I’d like to buy that one, “Without Her”, for \$10,000’”

It was a simple story of absent love, but one that fluttered quietly in its muted charm. Glen Campbell cut the first version, which was perfect for his subterranean voice.

“Without Her” featured on Nilsson's first album, *Pandemonium Shadow Show*, issued in October 1967, a year before The Beatles cited him as their favourite American artist. The bashful performer was suddenly a name, although he always refused to play live.

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# SYD THE SAVIOUR

From The Independent archive: **Robin Ince** on how comic Syd Little's autobiography sparked a change in fortunes

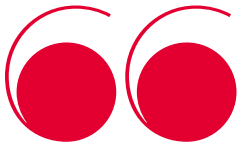


Funny faces: with double act partner Eddie Large in 1980 (Getty)

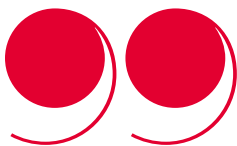
When I tell you which book had a lasting effect on my life, you may presume I am being facetious. I would like to declare that the book that truly altered the course of my life was Zola's *The Beast in Man*, a book I adore. Sadly, but honestly, the book that

has had the greatest impact is Syd Little's *Little Goes A Long Way*. Seven years ago, I put on a show called The Award Winning Robin Ince, Star of The Office, Series 1, Episode 5 (First bit). I played a psychotic version of myself explaining in rabid tones how I was responsible for the best in UK TV and radio. I had imagined that maybe 5 per cent of the audience might really believe the man on stage was a lunatic.

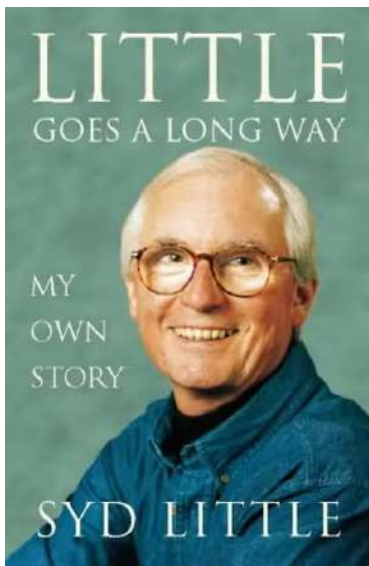
A few days in, I was horrified to discover that upwards of 80 per cent believed it was real: I was Antonin Artaud reimaged by *Heat* magazine. They even believed the bit where I furiously punched a melon that represented Vernon Kay's head until it exploded. My "spirit guide" in the show was Syd Little. I would read from his autobiography while the music of Philip Glass played in the background. This helped dramatise the story of Syd musing on how much Cliff Richard liked curry. To distract myself from my disaster, I took to turning up at late-night clubs with my Syd Little book and a variety of portentous tunes. I would stand in front of the pleasantly drunk crowds and read Syd as if tackling *Macbeth*.



**To distract myself from my disaster, I took to turning up at late-night clubs with my Syd Little book and a variety of portentous tunes**



I started patrolling the Edinburgh charity shops, picking up Mills & Boon romances about vets curing arthritic horses and reading them accompanied by some Ralph Vaughan Williams. While my main event was falling apart, my 3am sideshows were



Cover for 'Little Goes A Long Way' (Harper Collins)

a joy. I enjoyed it so much I started a night called The Book Club, where idiosyncratic performers would be glued together by readings from my expanding library of the odd. The shows led to a tour and some award nominations; we even won some. I had forged new friendships with all manner of excellent and idiosyncratic performers. We made podcasts and radio shows.

Once the Book Club seemed to lose its sheen, I killed it off, with the exception of festival outings. It was at one of these festival outings that I met a literary agent who suggested the show would make a good book. Meanwhile, I replaced the empty slot with a benevolent book club that celebrated greatness and wonder, with scientist and musician guests. This led to a sold-out show at the Hammersmith Apollo where Jarvis Cocker sang “I Believe in Father Christmas” before Richard Dawkins took to the stage to talk about spider-web evolution.

I’ve never enjoyed my work more than now. One moment I am sitting in a studio with comic-book legend, Alan Moore, talking about sock puppet gods, the next I am on stage with physicist Brian Cox trying to understand dark matter. I believe none of this would have happened if I hadn’t come up with a disastrous show that led to me walking the streets in search of places to read out Syd Little’s *Little Goes A Long Way*.

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## Puzzles



# GET THE PICTURE

Find the well known word, name or phrase made by each group of pictures, and the theme that unites them all



**Tap here for a clue**

**Tap here for answers**

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# SATURDAY QUIZ

Find the well known word, name or phrase made by each group of pictures, and the theme that unites them all



1. Who are the above and what's the link?
2. The name of which figure in the news is an anagram of "Haziest Bluster"?

3. Laurie Anderson, William Burroughs, Elvis Costello, Steve Martin and Frank Zappa are five of the several people to which a famous quotation has been attributed. What is it?
4. In 2015, which army increased its personnel by 25 people?
5. In 1978 Marilyn Loden, an HR officer at the New York Telephone Company, addressed a feminist conference on the subject of how women were routinely thwarted in the workplace. What phrase did she use to describe it?
6. On this day at the 1960 Rome Olympics, who won the marathon to become the first black African Olympic champion?
7. Which US state has the highest percentage of indigenous inhabitants?
8. Which Donizetti opera is an adaptation of a novel by Walter Scott?
9. Lennon and McCartney, Terence Stamp, Jean Shrimpton, the Kray twins, Mick Jagger, Lord Snowdon, David Hockney, Michael Caine, Cecil Beaton, Brian Epstein and 26 others: how were they linked in 1965?
10. Blades, Bratt's, Diogenes, Drones: what's the link?

**[Tap here for answers](#)**

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